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Inter-Arab Affairs

Syria, Egypt, Jordan To Hold Summit in Damascus

JN0907163691 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 8 Jul 91 pp 1, 17

[Excerpts] Cairo, Capitals—AL-BAYAN and Agencies—AL-BAYAN has learned that a tripartite summit will be held in Damascus this month. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Jordan's King Husayn will make up the summit. They will discuss current peace efforts and developments in the region in order to adopt a unified Arab position. [passage omitted]

The summit will take place following the Egyptian president's visit to Damascus to discuss the current peace efforts and their developments.

King Husayn will also visit Cairo at the end of this month, in the wake of President Husni Mubarak's visit to Britain, to continue talks on political coordination between Egypt and Jordan in the coming phase.

Egyptian sources indicate that the next few days will witness more practical developments in Jordanian-Egyptian relations and that the road is being paved for the restoration of normal relations between the two countries to their status before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

* Egypt Warns Israel on Interfering in Lebanon

91P403394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from diplomatic sources in Cairo that Egypt is conducting urgent contacts with the Israeli government. Via these contacts, Egypt is calling on Israel not to interfere in Lebanon again.

In these contacts, Egypt warned against violating Lebanon's unity or attempting to foil the legitimate Lebanese authorities' efforts to repair the damage of the Lebanese civil war. The contacts reasserted that acts such as these will not serve the Middle East peace process.

Egypt made these contacts after reports had circulated that Israel might strike Lebanon in an operation similar to the one conducted in southern Lebanon in 1982. These reports have been confirmed by the air attacks that Israel has been making on southern Lebanon.

* Mubarak's Speech To Cover Reforms, Arab Issues

91P403344 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jul 91 p 2

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will deliver an important political speech on 22 July, on the occasion of the July Revolution. This will be just before he departs that evening to begin his tour of Britain and Germany.

Informed sources have mentioned that Mubarak's July Revolution speech will be delivered before members of the National Democratic Party [NDP]. This speech will cover a number of foreign and domestic issues, foremost among them the [Egyptian] position on the Arab and international levels. It will also cover economic subjects and the course of economic reform, in view of the fact that this is Mubarak's first official speech since signing the new agreement with the IMF and the recent agreement with the Paris Club to forgive 50 percent of Egypt's debts. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Condemns U.S. 'Alignment' With Israel

NC1007085091 Paris AFP in English 0657 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Tunis, July 10 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat Tuesday condemned what he called a U.S.-Israeli alignment concerning the Middle East peace process, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported. "All the U.S. steps in the peace process come to a halt because of Israel's obstinacy in continuing its settlement and expansion policies and refusing to accept international law," Mr. 'Arafat said in a statement released by WAFA Tuesday.

The PLO chief criticised the United States for its "limitless" support of Israel, saying "Israel dictates its conditions and the United States justifies them, forcing the Arab states to accept a humiliating position." While the PLO had accepted all the "positive U.S. plans," they must "be converted into reality by recognizing the Palestinian's right to self-determination under PLO leadership."

Mr. 'Arafat released the statement to mark the beginning, Tuesday, of the 44th month of an uprising in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. He said the intifidah, as it is known, was "continuing more vigorously than ever" as it faced the "barbarious repression of the Israeli occupation forces" in the midst of "Arab silence."

He voiced concern about the Palestinians' safety in southern Lebanese refugee camps after the disarming of militiamen by Lebanese troops. He said that Israel's refusal to leave it's self-declared "security zone" in Lebanon "exposes the Palestinians to new massacres." While the PLO accepts "the sovereignty of the Lebanese state in all its territory," it refuses "to see the Palestinian camps (there) living under the constant threat of (Israeli) agression," Mr. Arafat said.

Lebanon has deployed troops in the southern region of Tyre since April and around Sidon since July 1 in an attempt to regain control over its territory.

Interview With 'Arafat on PLO-Israeli Talks

TA0907163791 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 8 Jul 91 p 2

[Written answers provided by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to questions posed by Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan in Tunis]

[Text] Q: Are you ready for direct negotiations with Israel?

A: I have always said that we are ready to establish direct talks without preconditions with the government of Israel, whose prime minister, however, rejected constantly our offer. We have to remember that the failure of the Baker plan in mid-1990 and the collapse of the Israeli coalition was due to Shamir's position. All conflicts in the world are solved when enemies sit down at the negotiations table.

Q: Can the PLO guarantee the cessation of violence by all Palestinian elements during the period of negotiations?

A: When the negotiations between the government of Israel and the representatives of the PLO start, we will do whatever is in our capacity to forbid acts of violence which might be committed by Palestinian elements during the said period of negotiations. We expect the Israeli government to make the same commitment.

Q: Prior to the signing of a peace agreement are you willing to cancel all clauses in the PNC Covenant that negate the right of the state of Israel to exist?

A: Before signing the final peace agreement between the government of Israel and the PLO the two parties could declare their readiness to cancel or/and change all clauses in their basic political and constitutional documents that may be offensive or threaten the security of Israel and the state of Palestine.

Q: Do you consider the PLO the sole representative of the Palestinian people and on what basis?

A: The PLO has been and still is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. As we are a democratic society, we are ready to hold a U.N.-sponsored referendum in the occupied territories and wheresoever the Palestinians reside. We are democratic and came to our positions by the will of the people. We accept whatever this people in and outside the occupied territories decide.

Q: Will you be willing to consider the demilitarization of the projected Palestinian state?

A: We love to build a state that lives in peace with its neighbors. We yearn also for the day when we will witness the whole region demilitarized. We are ready to accept collective arrangements to guarantee the security of Israel and the state of Palestine.

Q: What role can the United States and the Soviet Union play in any agreements reached between you and the government of Israel?

A: The United States and the Soviet Union can play a vital role in either separate or united efforts to bring the parties to the negotiation table and they can guarantee the sovereignty and integrity of the recognized and agreed-upon boundaries of both the state of Israel and the Palestinian state, in addition to the other international guarantees.

Q: Is there any place for involvement of the residents of the West Bank and Gaza forming any political group that could be involved in the peace process?

A: Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza or anywhere in the world are one people. And all are an indivisible part of the PLO. They have a natural right to participate in the decision-making process of the future of the Palestinian people and their state.

Q: Do you support the step-by-step solution starting with autonomy and proceeding to statehood?

A: There are many suggestive solutions. But the basis of success will depend on the willingness of the parties to negotiate sincerely to arrive at peace and to establish our Palestinian state.

Q: What are your ideas on Israelis living in the Palestinian state?

A: We do not differentiate among citizens because of belief or color or sex. This is a basic tenet in our Document of Independence and the Peace Initiative declared by the Palestine National Council in 1988. We will treat this point in a humane manner during the negotiations.

Q: What are your views on plans for a regional water authority?

A: We will cooperate and support any plan that will benefit all the people of the region. I know that this vital issue for all parties will be a fundamental issue in the peace negotiations and part of the peace agreements.

Q: What declarations that you have made in the past can be reaffirmed today and what gestures do you expect from Israel?

A: We reaffirm the Palestinian Peace Initiative approved by our Palestine National Council in Algeria in November 1988 as well as the contents of the press conference of December 1988 at the United Nations in Geneva in which we made a historical solution on the basis of two states for two peoples, and of carrying out U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and reject terrorism.

In return we demand from the Israeli government:

a) to act according to the principle of territory for peace.

b) to recognize our Palestinian people's right to self-determination and independence.

c) that with the commencement of negotiations on any level between the representatives of the government of Israel and the representatives of the PLO, Israel will release all Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

d) to reopen all universities in the occupied territories and to put an end to the policy of deportations and oppression.

e) to promote the liberalization of the unification-of-families policy.

f) to annul all laws which criminalize the meetings between the Israelis and Palestinians.

g) to stop the establishment of settlements and settling settlers in the occupied territories.

Q: Do you foresee in our lifetime the establishment of a Palestinian state living in peace and cooperation with the state of Israel or is it a dream of the coming generation?

A: Yes. We are ready to make the sacrifies which will change our dreams to reality. This will bring benefit to all the peoples in the region and so that peace will spread over the land of peace in Palestine, for our children and the children of the Israelis. As the Israelis say, "If you will it, it will not be a dream." It is time for this area and its peoples to enjoy security, peace, freedom and justice for a better life for their future generations.

'Arafat Meets Al-Qadhdhafi, Sidqi in Banghazi

JN0907172491 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] In Banghazi, brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has met with brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. They discussed the latest developments on the Palestine question, especially of our people's heroic intifadah in the occupied territories. They also discussed the latest Arab and international developments. Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah continues to support the struggle of our Palestinian people and their heroic intifadah against the Zionist occupation.

Brother Abu-'Ammar also met with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in Banghazi yesterday afternoon. They discussed developments on the Arab and international scenes, especially Palestinian developments. They also discussed the importance of Palestinian- Egyptian-Arab coordination.

'Arafat Stresses Adherence to al-Ta'if Accord

JN0907175991 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has stressed the need to bolster Arab-African relations to confront the force that is trying to impose its domination on the Arabs, Africans, and the Third World. In a statement following his meeting last night with Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, who is currently visiting Tunisia, brother 'Arafat said the two presidents discussed the situation in the region and its impact on the Palestine question, the Arab nation, Africa, and other world nations.

On another level, brother Yasir 'Arafat asserted that the Palestinian leadership adheres to the al-Ta'if agreement, which provides for the deployment of the Lebanese Army and the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

PLO's Abu-Sharif Urges Halt to Mideast Arms Race

NC0907091591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Tunis, 9 Jul (MENA)—In a statement to MENA, Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council on halting the export of nonconventional weapons to the Mideast region is a positive step toward building a stable and Middle East free from weapons. He added that the Middle East, which has been swept by wars throughout its history, is currently suffering a state of backwardness due to the arms race which has devoured the region's wealth and obstructed its economic development.

Abu-Sharif said: We fully support the elimination of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons from the entire region as a prelude toward changing it into a demilitarized zone.

Abu-Sharif added that the PLO, which continues to participate constructively in the peace process, appeals to the five states to speed up their efforts to end Israel's occupation of the Arab territories and lay the foundation for a permanent peace in the region. He said that, if the UN resolutions that call for ending the Israeli occupation are not implemented, the region will be swept by conflicts. He went on to say that the Arab world expects the five countries, specifically the United States, to use a single standard in dealing with international legitimacy, as has been the case in the Gulf.

Answering a question about Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi in Libya, Abu-Sharif said that the PLO's meetings always try to work for justice and peace. He said that the important meeting between president 'Arafat and Prime Minister Sidqi held on Monday dealt with the latest developments in the peace process and added that the talks were part of the agreement to coordinate Egypt and PLO efforts to serve the peace process and end the Israeli

occupation of the Arab territories. Abu-Sharif said that the two sides also discussed the proposal for eliminating the weapons of mass destruction in the region. He noted that there was full agreement on the importance of eliminating Israel's weapons of mass destruction as well as similar weapons possessed by any other country in the region.

Abu-Sharif said that the time is ripe for Arab countries to unify their stands on Israel's procrastination regarding its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to their state. He reiterated the importance of the Saudi role in liberating Jerusalem, the first of the two Qiblahs and the third holy place.

PNSF Leaders, Syria Share 'Identical' Views

JN0907175891 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Leaders of the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus this morning. The meeting was attended by Khalid al-Fahum, Ahmad Jibril, Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], 'Isam al-Qadi, 'Arabi 'Awwad, Muhammad Khalifah, 'Abd-al-Muhsin Abu-Mayzar, Abu-Khalid al-'Imlah, Talal Naji, 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Umar, Abu-'Ali Mahdi Busaysu, Abu-al-Qasim, and Fadl Shururu. The talks dealt with the latest political developments, the heroic intifadah in Palestine, the situation in Lebanon, and the Arab situation in general. Viewpoints on all the topics discussed were identical.

PNSF Not To Attend PNC Meeting; Explains Why

JN0907182991 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1655 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Mr. Khalid al-Fahum [Palestinian National Salvation Front, PNSF, leader] has stated the following: The PNSF leadership met yesterday and discussed the invitation to attend the 15 July Tunis meetings of the preparatory committee studying the basis on which the Palestine National Council [PNC] should be formed. The PNSF apologizes for not accepting the invitation for the following reasons:

1. The invitation was not extended to all factions of the resistance movement. Several major, effective factions were deliberately excluded.

2. The invitation contradicts the PNSF initiative, which calls on all parties to launch a comprehensive dialogue to evaluate the previous phase, lay down plans for future political action, and set up a preparatory committee for the new, seventh PNC.

3. The invitation extended is to attend a technical meeting with no defined authority. The PNSF is calling for a meeting enjoying the power to determine the plan of the political process and the formation of the seventh PNC, provided that all factions of the resistance movement, as well as the independent nationalist figures, take part.

4. The invitation was not extended to our kinfolk in the occupied territories. The PNSF underscores the attendance of representatives from the occupied territories to evaluate the phase and set up the new PNC in a manner commensurate with the weight of the inside forces and the importance of the heroic intifadah.

The PNSF reiterates its call for a comprehensive dialogue in which all factions, forces, and independent nationalist figures inside and outside the occupied territories take part. We hope that no one will hinder this call.

Algeria

National Assembly Approves Government Program

LD0907205591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] A short time ago the National People's Assembly approved the program of Sid Ahmed Ghozali's government by 254 votes in favor, five against, and 22 absent from the vote.

Ghozali Thanks Assembly

LD0907035491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Tonight the National People's Assembly concluded its emergency session, which began last Thursday, by endorsing the program of Sid Ahmed Ghozali's government with 254 votes in favor, five against, and six delegates abstaining. After the endorsement of the program, Abdelaziz Belkhadem, chairman of the National People's Assembly, said this transitional government is one that is independent of any party affiliation and that the endorsement confirms that the supreme interest is above any political consideration.

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali thanked the delegates in his address for endorsing the government's program and for their confidence in the government and in him. He thinks this is a second charge of responsibility, the weight of which he is totally aware. He hopes for the cooperation of all in order to achieve it in the service of our country and people. In his address, Ghozli said in particular: It is our duty to continuously take care of all our resources and to work assiduously instead of ignoring them and belittling their value. He stressed that we are able to meet the democratic challenge because we believe in the principle of development and because our country possesses the resources necessary to enable it to rectify its situation.

Deputies' Stances on Government Program Noted

LD0907124591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] The National People's Assembly is holding a public session today to continue its proceedings devoted to the discussion of the program of Sid Ahmed Ghozali's new government. It was scheduled that the Assembly would hold this session yesterday to listen to the premier's replies to questions by national deputies, however, the session was adjourned to today.

A statement issued by the Assembly says that the proceedings will resume this morning with the premier answering deputies' questions on the government's draft program during three days of debates. Through the interventions and questions of the deputies, we can make out three stances as becomes clear from this recording.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] We can say about the first stance that it supports the government program and calls on the government to quickly assume its duties with the aim of getting the country out of the dangerous situation. The second stance opposes this statement and belongs to a minority and confines the mission of the new government to preparing the elections and restoring security and stability to the country. Going into economic matters is not within its duties because it is a transitional government.

The third stance, which one can say is both opposing and supporting, sees that the present situation and the interest of the nation requires oversight of some matters even though it opposes some points which appeared in the government's plan, such as the issue of debts and the possibility to review the laws of elections and the division of constituencies. Thus, according to the standpoint of this group of deputies, it is not possible to please a party and irritate the people or correct one mistake with a bigger one, because reviewing these two laws wil lead to further explosion of the situation.

From this premise, we cannot prejudge the deputies' votes and say that they will adopt Sid Ahmed Ghozali's government plan even though the course of the general debate reveals that it will be approved.

Among the observations which can be deduced is that the nation's deputies have not yet gotton rid of their complex regionalism and the wavering stances of some of them. At the end we wonder whether Sid Ahmed Ghozali's government is really a transitional one. This question leads us to wonder about the program which will be implemented after this or that party wins the parliamentary majority which enables it to form the government. [end recording]

Ghozali Answers Deputies' Questions

LD0907141491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] The National People's Assembly resumed its extraordinary session today by listening to the answers of Premier Sid Ahmed Ghozali to the questions submitted to him by deputies three days ago. Correspondent Sadreddine Fadil talks now about what happened in parliament:

[Fadil] Today, after the grace period given to Premier Sid Ahmed Ghozali to answer the deputies' questions and to inform them about the general situation in the country, the public session was preceded by a closed session which continued for half an hour. Immediately after that, Ghozali talked about the ideas presented by the deputies to the prime minister, which were useful.

Thus, he divided the answers into two categories. There were economic answers: the problems of rescheduling; the fiscal situation in general; the internal and external financing; inflation; cash flow; purging the agricultural organizations; and revising the currency and credit laws; and political answers: the elections; security; and public

affairs and management. There were also answers to deputies questions which stemmed from a misunderstanding of what he presented or stated.

Ghozali talked for a long time about indebtedness and gave many examples of countries with weak economies. He compared the state in its dealings with the IMF with the doctor examining his patient, and by this examination the doctor interferes in the patient's private affairs and restricts his personal freedom. Is rescheduling a violation of national sovereignty and does it restrict the political options of the country?

Ahmed Ghozali talked bitterly about the problems from which Algeria suffers. The issue is not an issue of resources, but it is an issue of mismanagement. Ghozali recalled that when he was finance minister he submitted a plan for investigating and pricing Algerian oil and gas, but the plan was rejected on the pretext that he should not interfere in energy affairs. He said that the great blow to the national economy was when the Algerian oil would have been able to protect the fruits of planning and nationalization. When the percentage of nationalization was 51 percent it was accurately studied, but when the political decision came to make it 100 percent nationalization it destroyed all that the Algerian Government did over numerous years of planning and assessment. Since 1985 the Algerian Government has not taken into consideration the problem of rescheduling. He said that the fault was not in the rescheduling but in weak management.

Sid Ahmed Ghozali revealed the obstacles that we should have avoided. He said that the national economy is the first loser, and hence the citizen pays the bill of mismanagement. He said we were thinking of the immediate and temporary solutions and not of the deep solutions which would lead to ridding ourselves completely of the problem.

Sid Ahmed Ghozali has given instructions to the energy minister to work toward creating a kind of mechanism for pricing oil and gas that would revive the national economy. He told the deputies openly that he must inform the Algerian people about the financial situation and the general situation of the country. He said: We are going through the most difficult financial stage since independence.

Ghozali on Debt Rescheduling

LD1007043491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The prime minister this afternoon continued [at the National People's Assembly extraordinary session] to answer questions from deputies. On the contents of Mr. Ghozali's answers, our correspondent sent us this report:

[Unidentified correspondent] Tonight's session was lengthy. During this session Ghozali talked in numbers and he spoke frankly without attacking anybody and without being complimentary or settling scores. Mr. Ghozali focused on the economic aspect because it is the key to our economic problems. He focused on tax collection and considers the reform of tax collection to be top priority; he considers strategic planning an inevitable necessity for controlling the economy's machinery. Supervision by the state is also necessary in some cases but without affecting the management's tasks. He also talked about stabilizing the financial state of establishments as the [deficit] has doubled since 1988 from 80 billion Algerian dinars to 150 billion Algerian dinars.

After this Mr. Ghozali answered questions. Regarding agriculture, he said it is time for state intervention to reclaim land, to master agricultural technology, and to take care of this sector. After this he spoke of the great challenge that awaits Algeria and gave as examples the stagnation in the agricultural sector caused by the lack of effective participation on the part of the state. Also in the field of energy, he reminded of the need to review the hydrocarbons law and the creation of better conditions for benefiting from this sector without sacrificing the social aspect. He said overcoming the obstacle in the last [words indistinct] has been due to an exceptional circumstance which is the increase in the price of fuels as a result of the Gulf war, but success in the coming [word indistinct] cannot be guaranteed.

On national cadres, he spoke regretfully of the marginalization of the cadres and moving them to retirement while they were still at the peak of their productivity. He emphasized that his government is determined to open a constructive and frank dialogue with all parties. He also talked about the press and asked it to be fair and objective. He promised to help all, but he wanted no flattering.

[Announcer] Mr. Ghozali had spoken at an earlier session on the issue of the urgent financial aid which has been the subject of much talk these days. He pointed out that he will endeavor to get extraordinary aid from the EEC and that he may also resort to the director of the IMF to ask for help without resorting to rescheduling Algeria's debts, but the 12 ministers of finance meeting in Brussels deferred the decision on granting a loan to Algeria until September. [passage omitted]

We return now to the question of rescheduling which has been the focus of discussions and about which Mr. Ghozali had talked at length. The prime minister was anxious to explain this concept. He said:

[Begin Ghozali recording] Rescheduling is but negotiating, and as it is a negotiation its results depend on the negotiating ability of the two parties. This is the crux of the matter [word indistinct]. Let us suppose some country goes to the banks and says to them: Look, I have paid all my debts so far, but I estimate that in a year or two I will not so let us negotiate to see what we can do. This is one way. Alternatively, we wait until we [words indistinct] and here the margin for maneuvering is reduced to zero. If everyone knows that the framework for negotiations are the Paris Club—with regard to

intergovernmental debts—and the London Club—with regard to debts from commercial banks—then everyone should also know that every negotiation means the intervention of the IMF as it represents, one way or another, an international cooperative. The IMF is but an international cooperative and we are a member in it. Its aim is to help countries facing financial difficulties. The IMF often resembles a doctor. People go to see him and say: I am sick. The doctor imposes a treatment of the symptoms. It is better if he treats the causes and works to prevent a repetition of the inability to pay. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Because rescheduling is often interpreted by many as an infringement of national sovereignty, Mr. Ghozali posed this hypothesis and answered it by saying:

[Begin Ghozali recording] The answer is yes and no. When you see a doctor, when a person goes to see a doctor, he tells you what to do. Does the doctor infringe on the freedom of the person? Yes and no. As long as the reason is the mode of economic and social management, the IMF will impose supervision on the social and economic management in the country which asks for rescheduling. Therefore, rescheduling in fact leads to a restriction of the country's freedom in deciding on social and economic policies because the application for rescheduling implies inevitable intervention by the Fund, and the case here represents, as I said, a patient who goes to the doctor, follows his advice, takes the medicine as prescribed, and bears its sweetness and bitterness. The Fund is like the doctor. No one makes you consult or visit him, but if we want to avoid going to the doctor, we have to prescribe for ourselves in advance a controlled conduct. We must do this, and should we reach the stage of not being able to pay we can then decide not to pay. [end recording]

'Tension' Prompts News Conference Cancellation

LD0907201591 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Groups of Islamic Salvation Front members opposing the wing of Cheikh Hachemi Sahnouni, member of the National Consultative Council, and Said Guechi, the head of the Front's organization and coordination committee, have prevented a news conference from taking place at the premises of the People's National Assembly in Algiers. The conference was called by Said Guechi. The group gathered in front of the door leading to the hall and engaged in violent verbal exchanges with the members belonging to Sahnouni and Guechi's wing, who were accused of treachery. The two sides were on the verge of exchanging blows. When the door to the hall opened, tension remained, a matter that led one of the organizers to cancel the news conference.

Military Releases Figures on Detentions

LD1007031891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] A statement published today by the military authority in charge of administering the state of siege has said that since 30 June the security forces have launched security operations to detain those who aid and perpetrate offenses harming the security of the state and public order. The statement added that as a result of this operation, which covered the entire national territory, 2,046 persons have been detained, 1,867 persons have been brought before justice, 545 have been ordered to be detained, and 1,050 have been released, of whom 520 have been released temporarily. The same source added that 262 persons have been ordered to be placed in security centers pending consultations with the public security committees in accordance with the special clauses stipulated in the decree instituting the state of siege. The statement said the detention and imprisonment operations which took place before 30 June 1991 were made within the framework of public law alone. Thus, they do not figure among the aforementioned numbers.

Another statement published today by the military authority in charge of administering the state of siege said that in implementation of Decree Number 196/91, the military authority has opened special security centers for receiving those persons whose activities harm public security and order. The six centers are in Aouled Fayed in the Wilaya of Algiers; Blida in the First Military District; Oran in the Second Military District; Ain Mlila in the Fifth Military District; and El-Mniaa and Ouergla in the Fouth Military District. The statement added that the latter two centers are devoted to receiving persons who are the subject of measures placing them in security centers after the specified period during which they could appeal had expired.

Commentary Views Alleged Islamic Front 'Division'

LD0907163991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Commentary by Barhoum Boudjouma]

[Text] Through the development of Algeria's political events at the end of last week and this week, we could see that three factors have emerged: first, Chozali presented the program of his transitional government to the People's National Assembly deputies; second, the detention of Mr. Mohamed Said, to whom the temporary leadership of Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] was restored after the arrest of Cheikh Abassi Madani and Cheikh Ali Belhadj and the reactions to that; and third, the continuing tendency described as rebels against the legitimacy of action as an alternative to the FIS leadership.

Anyone who looks carefully into the first factor will discover that the program presented by Ahmed Ghozali to the people's National Assembly deputies included in

its general contents a collection of step-by-step solutions for a part of the crisis in which the country staggers or what could be called a pain killer cure, despite the fact that some people could see in the program an ambition that goes beyond that in its political and economic parts. It is an ambition that goes beyond the transitional phase and might not be fulfilled in the near future if we consider the mission for which the transitional government was formed. The discussions at the People's National Assembly centered around that subject. Many questions were asked about the government's abilities to implement the presented program because of the critical situation at all levels.

The second factor concerns this week's detention of Cheikh Mohamed Said while he was holding a news conference with the national and foreign press at Kouba's Municipality Hall. There were a number of questions which, as a whole, reflect the concern for what the situation might be in the future at a time when the country needs stability and security. The first remark the observers recorded concerned how the detention took place, despite the fact that there were many methods and channels for apprehension and arrest without noise or disturbance. They wonder whether such operations would stop at a certain limit or would go further than that, bearing in mind that the political practice takes place publicly and within a framework of legitimacy and clarity. If we assume that the statements criticize the regime directly and even calls for toppling it, then the opposition fate, in general, will not be better than the FIS fate.

The third factor, which is linked to the second factor, concerns the alternatives which emerged through the group of Said Guechi, Sahnouni, Bachir Fekih, and others. Like with the arrest of Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Belhadj, a tendency toward installing an alternative leadership was noticed. This was considered a deviation from legitimacy and rebellion against the general FIS line. If we read the statement issued by Cheikh Ahmed Sahnoun, leader of the Islamic Call League, we would find that there is nothing to indicate a recommendation of the group of Guechi and Fekiq, but there is a commitment to legitimacy and an explicit call for releasing the detainees, including Abassi, Belhadj, and Mohamed Said.

The division which appeared in FIS ranks and surfaced after recent events is not considered by the observers as an indication that the bases on which FIS was founded are collapsing. On the contrary, they consider that this will help FIS to revise its political methods of action and practices.

Has the group of Guechi and Fekih enough credibility to attract the FIS grass roots? Or are the reasons for its existence temporary?

Egypt

Ghali Confers With Algerian Presidential Adviser

NC1907131391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 July (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations and minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad, today met with Mohamed Sahlul, political adviser to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who is currently visiting Cairo. The talks centered around developments in Algeria.

Dr. Ghali voiced Egypt's concern for Algeria's stability and security and pointed out that Egypt is following these developments out of its desire for the stability of this fraternal country and its support for Arab cooperation at this important stage.

The Algerian presidential adviser said that the Algerian Government is now in full control of the situation and that normalcy has been restored. He said that matters have completely stabilized. Mr. Sahlul said that his discussions with Dr. Ghali dealt with relations between the two countries and ways to promote them. The discussions also touched on important international issues of mutual concern, he added.

Mohamed Sahlul arrived in Cairo yesterday on a visit during which he will take part in the UN-sponsored meetings on development and environment in Africa.

GCC, Syrian, Egyptian Ministers To Meet 15 Jul

NC1907155391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1512 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 July (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that contacts are continuing among the countries which signed the Damascus Declaration to exchange views on implementing the declaration and bolstering cooperation among these countries in political, security, and economic areas. In a statement today, he said the foreign ministers of the eight countries—Egypt, Syria, and the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]—will meet in Kuwait on Monday to discuss a draft agenda prepared by experts at their recent meeting in Doha. The ministers also will exchange views on working out the best formula to strengthen cooperation among these countries in the fields outlined in the declaration.

AL-AHRAM on EC Role in Peace Efforts

NC1907053291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 July (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has criticized Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis' statement that the EC is prepared to accept Israel as a full member [as received] if it agrees to start talks to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue.

In an editorial tomorrow, the paper says that the Italian foreign minister's statement is another example of Western coddling of Israel, a policy which only reinforces Israel's intransigence and does not serve the cause of peace.

The paper adds that Europe's desire to play an effective international role requires that it honor its long-standing relations with the Arabs before defining its position toward Israel. It goes on to say that if the EC truly wants to contribute to a just solution to the Palestinian issue, it should impose the same kind of economic boycott against Israel as was imposed against Iraq.

AL-AHRAM says that if this were done, Israel's economy, which is largely dependent on the outside world, would suffer greatly, and this could prompt it to accept peace. Using only carrots and no sticks with Israel will not do much good. The editorial concludes by emphasizing that logic dictates that Israel be made to comply with international legitimacy, just as Iraq was.

In another editorial entitled "Shuffling Papers," AL-AHRAM says that Israel has put the United States on the defensive as a result of the actions of the Zionist lobby in the Congress to support Tel Aviv's call for halting arms exports to the Arab states.

The paper notes that Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens has urged the Bush administration to halt U.S. arms exports to the Arab world, but at the same time he wants it to continue to arm Israel and to expand bilateral military cooperation in manufacturing sophisticated weapons.

The paper adds that the Zionist lobby heard this call and raised the issue at the U.S. House of Representative Foreign Affairs Committee, where it claimed that continued arming of Arab states was in conflict with President Bush's proposal for stopping the arms race in the region.

The paper says that if Israel wants to stop, or at least limit, the export of arms to Arab states, it should be willing to have itself included under these restrictions. The editorial concludes by emphasizing that if the Bush plan is to be implemented, it must apply to all states in the region without exception.

U.S. Stand on Settlements Called 'Contradictory'

NC0907212891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2049 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 July (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper has described the U.S. position on peace efforts in the region as "contradictory." In its commentary to be published Wednesday, the paper notes U.S. President George Bush's statement that the settlements are the main obstacle to the talks, that they run counter to U.S. policy, and that they will produce results that conflict with the peace process.

AL-AHRAM notes Israeli Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon's comment that President Bush's statement contained nothing new. The paper says Israel thus continues to defy the highest U.S. officials.

AL-AHRAM said evidence of the U.S. contradiction is its behavior toward Israel and Washington's vacillation between promises and threats. Bush said in the same statement that the U.S. demand for halting the settlements is one thing and giving aid to Israel is another—two different issues that must not be linked. AL-AHRAM emphasized that this is a clear response to what Shamir already had requested—namely, to separate the two issues because aid for the settlements, that is, "absorption of the Jewish immigrants", is a humanitarian issue while the Middle East peace process, "although its crux is the settlements", is a political one.

Defendent in al-Mahjub Case Recaptured

NC0707105491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1002 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 July (MENA)—The security authorities have recaptured Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, the second person on the list of those charged with assassinating People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rifa'at al-Mahjub and five security men. He had escaped in April while being transferred to al-Minya prison.

Interior Minister Muhammmad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa is expected to provide details about the arrest of 'Abd-al-Ghani and certain accomplices later today.

* Report Names Islamists Arrested Over Holiday

91P40331A Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 19 Jun 91 p 8

[Report by Muhammad Basyuni]

[Excerpts] State Security Investigations [SSI] has launched a new campaign in which it arrested hundreds of youths from the Islamic Associations on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha. SSI arrested attorney al-Shadhli al-Saghir while he was in al-Ghardaqah courthouse. Bahij 'Ali Muhammad, leader of the 'Ayn Shams Islamic Association; and Sha'ban 'Ali Ibrahim, one of the Islamic leaders in Asyut, were arrested and tortured in the Lazughli building [passage omitted listing other arrestees]. Muhammad Riyad and 'Abd-al-Ghaffar ['Azb], attorneys for the arrestees, presented a complaint to the public prosecutor for not allowing them to meet with the arrestees and because large groups of the arrestees are still at the SSI [office] without being brought forth to the public prosecutor's office [for charges].

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Libyan-Egyptian Committee

LD0807183291 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2341 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Address by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a meeting of the Libyan-Egyptian Higher Committee in Banghazi on 7 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. I have decided to attend this session due to my conviction about its historic importance despite its simplicity and humbleness. This session puts the last touches on the road being built for the caravan of Arab unity. [passage omitted]

All the efforts of this nation, its sacrifices, tears, blood, sweat, and fatigue could not go in vain. These efforts must yield fruit, which is the unity our nation is always endeavoring to achieve. This important and tangible activity between the two brotherly countries, Egypt and Libya, is taking place, and voices are calling loudly for the unity of this nation at a time when people hear on their radio news about separations in the Baltic region, and splitting up in Yugoslavia and Somalia.

The ignorant and naive person would wonder how could these people [the Arabs] be making efforts for a wide-ranging unity over a region stretching from the Atlantic to the Gulf, at a time when republics are breaking away from each other: Yugoslavia, which is one country, splitting up; Somalia is splitting up, the Soviet republics are rebelling and breaking away. This analysis by an ignorant person is superficial. The reality is totally opposed to this. First, this era is one of the masses. Mankind has become mature. It has acquired more experience and development, so much so that all people have become self-confident and reject whoever wants to impose himself as a trustee on them. The peoples rebel against parliaments, parties, and governments. They want to be in direct control of power by themselves. This is inevitably coming. This historic march will not stop half-way through.

During this era of the masses, each nationality wants to be in control of its destiny and thinks that it was forced to be connected to another nationality for various reasons and different circumstances, foremost among them being tyranny and force. Regarding the Soviet Union, this is not a nation breaking up, but nations seeking independence. In reality, there is no link between Lithuania and Russia. This is a northern european Baltic republic situated on the Baltic sea. It has no link whatsoever with Russia and there is nothing in common between them as far as origin, race, language, heritage, and the past are concerned. [passage omitted]

This is a national liberation [movement] currently taking place in the republics of the Soviet Union. They all think that Russia or the Russians are the absolute majority and the stronger country. This country was under czarist rule, and it was the czar in Moscow who colonized these countries and made the czarist Russian empire out of them. When the situation changed and they became Soviet republics, they in fact began to think that these [czarist, communist rule] were two sides of the same coin, and Moscow, which had been the capital of the czarist empire was still the capital of the Soviet republics. [passage omitted]

The same situation applies to Yugoslavia. Serbia is the biggest republic in the Yugoslav federation. Serbia had been an empire. The Yugoslavs think that strong Serbia is dominating the other nationalities. [passage omitted]

This situation has absolutely nothing to do with the Arab homeland or the Arab nation. It resembles however the federation of the Arab nation with Turkey, or Iran. [passage omitted]

Albania was with us in a single country [the Ottoman Empire] We and Albania were one country. We were in a single country with Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia. There were battles in Belgrade between the Ottomans and the Europeans who had differences with them in that region. [passage omitted]

The Arab nation is a single entity, a nucleus, and its nationalism is pan-Arab, given that it is bound to unite around its nucleus and pan-Arabism. Therefore, the work that is currently undertaken—for example this evening's work on bringing closer the day of unity between Libya and Egypt—is moving in the right direction. Pan-Arabism wants to (?unite) its sons. The Arab nation is divided; that is not a natural state. [passage omitted]

In appreciation of the work accomplished at this session, I decided to attend in order to bless this work and greet you. I am able to announce that today documents ratified by the People's Assembly in Egypt and the Basic People's Congress in Libya were exchanged. As of today a Libyan can go to his land, Egypt, in complete freedom [words indistinct]. He can then go in complete freedom and according to the law and legal and constitutional measures. If anyone objects, any citizen can submit a case to the court, and the court will rule in his favor because as of this moment a Libyan becomes free to move, reside, and own property in his country, Egypt. As of this hour, an Egyptian becomes free to move, reside, and own property in his country, Libya. [applause]

That means the two peoples have in fact become one people in so far as movement, residence, and ownership are concerned. This is a popular demand which has always been wished for by the masses in the Arab homeland. With the realization of this demand, the wish of these masses has been realized, and the ordinary citizen who wants to live in his Arab homeland and cooperate with his Arab brother in his normal life has triumphed. This citizen and his wishes have triumphed over falsifications, distortions, and oppression by [word indistinct] and illusory security obstacles, personal interests of [word indistinct] and sick regionalists.

With the realization of this demand, the hopes of the ordinary Arab citizen triumphed over the will of colonialism that had injustly divided the Arab world at random. Whoever is now considered Egyptian is Libyan, and whoever is now regarded as Libyan is Egyptian. We all know that as far as the population is concerned, there is no border at all, no separation between Libya and Egypt. In our Arab history Egypt is only Cairo, and even in the Arab Republic of Egypt now, anyone going from Alexandria to Cairo says: I am going to Misr [Egypt], and anyone going from Asyut to Cairo says: I am going to Misr. [passage omitted]

Likewise, Libya historically, in the history of the Arabs there is nothing called Libya. All Africa was called Libya, and even the Ottomans used to call Libya the province of Tripoli. Since Tripoli was the capital and the biggest town, Libya was called the province of Tripoli, and every inhabitant of present day Libya was called Tarabulsi [inhabitant of Tripoli]. Even the Turks say: This man is a Tarabulsi. It was the Italians who conferred the name Libya to the region located between English colonialism in Egypt and Sudan, and French colonialism in Tunisia, Algeria, Niger, and Chad.

The region left for Italy as a zone of influence or colonialism was called Libya. It officially became Libya by an Italian decision. Therefore, the currently existing regionalist identity is really forged. It was wanted and imposed on us by colonialism. Now only our will has triumphed over that of colonialism, and now the truth has been unmasked. There is no Egypt other than Cairo city, and in our Arab history, in the Arab homeland, there is no Libya, nothing at all called Libya. These Arab issues stretch from the Ocean to the Gulf. Every tribe in Egypt exists in Libya, Mauritania, Iraq, Syria, and the Arab Peninsula, but if you go to a tribe in Russia, you will not find part of it in Georgia, for instance. Never—this one is Asian and this one is European; they do not know each other. [passage omitted]

There is in reality an economic conflict. If it was a military conflict, popular resistance might defeat an imperial army and we the dispersed and poor people would be able to fight America or any great power with rifles. The battle now is, however, not that of the rifle or the machine gun as much as it is really a battle of economy, an economic battle. The equilibrium now is an economic one. Japan has no army, but the most frightening thing to America is Japan. Strong arms control was imposed on Germany after World War II and despite this, it is the third or fourth power in the world and Germany is very frightening, not from the military aspect but from the economic one, as far as American and Europe are concerned.

The economic issue is very sensitive indeed, and we have felt its importance, sensitivity, and seriousness. I thank God for the fact that we Arabs are waking up and realizing that all the regionalism did not bring us any gains, and that it is a superstition and a triviality to remain behind borders made by colonialism. [passage omitted]

We must understand that the American intelligence, the Israeli intelligence, and even the intelligence of countries around us are promoting divisions between the Arabs, because if the Arabs become a force—an economic force would be enough—this would be a dangerous thing. Why should they allow the Arabs to become such a force? [passage omitted]

They are saying that they must prevent the Arabs from becoming an economic, military, or agricultural force before it is too late. Arabs must beg for wheat from America, buy arms from China, and listen to news from Jerusalem. This is the (?West). This is a death sentence and it should be defeated. We are not hostile people. We do not want to commit aggression against anyone. We are talking about our unity and economic strength, and we are free to do so. We do not want to listen to what you say; we do not want your wheat or your arms. We want to become self-sufficient. Does this request endanger human rights or peace? This is our (?request); we will say it loud everywhere, and we are convinced that it is the right action.

This action leads to economic strength, defeats the enemy's will, and achieves the requests of the ordinary citizen who does not like the police, the security apparatus, the crossing points, the customs. He does not like being searched, he does not like barbed wires or passports, and he does not like his passport being stamped. [passage omitted]

People wondered how we could open Musa'id gate [crossing point between Egypt and Libya] despite the propaganda abroad, and what Jerusalem is saying as mentioned above. Israelis and God knows who could enter through Musa'id gate. Well whatever Egypt is in, even if Egypt is in danger, we will share this danger with it. Whoever enters Egypt, let him enter Libya, and we will see what is going to happen. Whoever enters Egypt can come here.

And security: The security man had a problem on how this gate would be opened. After the gate was demolished and entries began, quite the contrary happened. He was relieved and praised God for security. He said that borders were a problem; there used to be talk about borders, but now I am relieved of the problem of borders. There are no borders anymore; that is it, borders were abolished. He uses his efforts somewhere else inside, or he does something else; he looks inside.

It was a farce. Bananas used to come from Egypt. They are stopped in Musa'id and a sample is taken to Tripoli to be analyzed. Then they inform the car's driver: We inform you that it is (?overripe) [word indistinct]. Thus an ordinary citizen is exasperated and made to suffer in this way! The analyst in the laboratory sits in a place which is air-conditioned like this. He has laboratories and waits for samples to come to him. The owner of one

of the samples is a poor Egyptian citizen whose family makes its living out of the bananas in his car. [Words indistinct] bring the bananas to be analyzed. Leave it for 24 hours; we have doubts about it; give it another 24 hours. The analyst writes and smokes comfortably at his desk, while sombody is under the sun in Musa'id. [passage omitted]

The Arab citizen is living in a [word indistinct]. He sees that Palestine is occupied; he sees that America is strong; he sees that Russia is strong; he sees that the Arab world is fragmented; he sees humiliation, backwardness; he suffers from poverty; and he further suffers from gates, from customs, from security, from barbed wire, from finger prints, from stamps.

This work you did this evening is a victory for this ordinary citizen who is very hostile to colonialism and to all the regionalist measures which are in reality a burden to him and make him very angry about everything. He is the master; from now on, the ordinary citizen is the master. [passage omitted]

You have now carried out an action in response to the demands of the ordinary citizen. If we were to carry out an opinion poll and ask if there should be borders between Libya and Egypt, if we should install customs, gates, barbed wire, and security, the outcome would be 100 percent against and these things should not be there. Therefore, for what purpose do we make all this?

Security is the security of the Arab nation, and security is the food and economic security and power. If you, the security forces and the intelligence forces, want to secure this nation, you must guarantee it through food, dress, protection, power, and self-confidence, and not through the gates and conspiracies of one against the other.

We have tried and have bitter experiences full of useful lessons. Therefore, we are firmly determined—and I have affirmed that to brother President Husni Mubarak—that we will not go back. Actually our decision regarding unity and the measures necessary for it, particularly with Egypt, let the Libyan people hear: To me there is no reconsideration, no going back. It is not subject to experiment even if tomorrow the Egyptian papers start vilifying me. Even if the Egyptian papers do nothing except vilify Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, I am not going back on the march with Egypt and the work with Egypt side by side until the end. We must know what the end is. The end is unity and strength, and all those papers, pamphlets, and plots will wear out and be burned in the dustbin. Only the truth will remain, the sound matter will remain: unity. Regarding the work with Egypt, there is no reconsideration. Actually it is not open to reconsideration and I am not prepared to shoulder this historic responsibility. [passage omitted]

We cannot abandon Egypt regardless of the circumstances through which it passes. It even recognized Israel. All these things are no secret. We always talk openly about them in our meetings. Regardless of the circumstances in which it was put which led it to recognize Israel, we cannot abandon Egypt because of its importance to the Arab nation and because of our duty toward Egypt. Every horse has a fall [Arab saying], and if there was a fall for Egypt in this historic path of this nation [words indistinct]. This nation has been living for 5,000 years and will go on ahead for thousands of years until judgment day. It is not possible for only one fall on the road to shatter the nation.

We cannot abandon Egypt just because of a fall on its path which was caused by difficult conditions. We cannot forget the sacrifices made by Egypt against the Moghuls, the crusaders, the Tatars, Zionism, and colonialism. Egypt's action for the Arabs must not be forgotten. Unity actions might take place here or there, but truly, the fundamental unity is with Egypt. My intention is to belittle Arab regionalism. The story of competing with Egypt... [changes thought] We are Arabs and I told the Egyptians that this is the nation's capital. As soon as I saw Alexandria, I told President Mubarak: If the Arabs want a capital near the sea, here is Alexandria. It is big and it is a good town. If they want a capital near the sea, here is Alexandria, and if they want a capital slightly inland, here is Cairo. As for the rest of the Arab capitals, they are suburbs and they should remain so. This is one homeland with one capital. [passage omitted]

What encouraged me to believe that action with Egypt is irreversible, strategic, and important is the fact that should there be liberation it will start from Egypt. Should Palestine be liberated, everything—you can hold me to this—will start from Egypt. Should we defeat enemies, it will start from Egypt. Should we create an economic or military force, it will start from Egypt. This must be said, and I shoulder the responsibility of what I am saying. What encouraged me to decide that action with Egypt is irreversible is the importance and the worthiness of this action and because I found that the current period under brother Husni Mubarak is increasingly encouraging. There is dynamism and clearness, there is no political hypocrisy, and there is seriousness. [passage omitted]

It is good news that we tell the sons of Libya and Egypt this evening that with the exchange of documents of ratification, these documents which have been ratified, the road is now open for work, movement, and property ownership. In addition to this, as far as the Egyptian Arab citizen in Libya is concerned, he not only has the right of movement, of residence, and property ownership but he also has political rights.

Any Egyptian citizen who wants to join a people's congress may do so. He may come forward and be elected to a people's committee. We might find an Egyptian who has won the trust of the Libyans and who has been successively elected by them until he arrives at the post of Abu-Zayid ['Umar Durda, secretary general of the General People's Committee]. [passage omitted]

As for the Libyan in Egypt, he would like the brothers in Egypt to allow him to join the National [Democratic] Party or the Progressive Rally or Young Egypt or the

Greens, etc. It is up to them. I see this as something ordinary. If this is decided, then there is no problem because this is something ordinary. [Words indistinct] should be integrated. Just as interests are integrated, voices and views should be integrated. This is good news I am heralding to the popular masses in the two fraternal countries. On this occasion, the agreements have taken effect from this evening forward. This means that the land of Egypt and the Nile have become the property of the Libyans and Egyptians, and the land of Libya, its oil, and its potentials have become the property of the Egyptians and the Libyans.

I returned from Sudan through Egypt, and I saw that in reality, integration and real unity should involve the three countries: Sudan, Egypt, and Libya. 'Abd-al-Nasir himself had entrusted me with it. We were sitting with the map of the Arab world in front of us and he said to me: Look Mu'ammar, this is the great state [words indistinct], this is the great power: Libya, Egypt, and Sudan., This was the trust of 'Abd-al-Nasir; this is the great state; this is the heart and backbone of the Arab nation. As for the rest, look at the Mashriq and the Maghreb [Arab east and west]. All the words I said do not adversely affect the firm commitments of Libya and Libyans [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs] to the Arab Magheb Union. Quite the contrary; this strengthens Arab unity and makes the unity of the Arab Maghreb step forward on the road to Arab unity. Perhaps somebody will not understand and will intepret this as Libya turning its back on the Arab Maghreb; now it has opened the road with Egypt.

Never. We hope we destroyed the gate with Tunisia before the gate with Egypt. We hope that an integration unity will be proclaimed in the Arab Maghreb, that borders are fully removed, and that the Maghreban citizen has the right to movement, residence, and ownership in the Arab Maghreb countries just as the case is now between Libya and Egypt.

This is the real unity, devoid of demagogy, the unity that seeks the sympathy of the masses and tickles their feelings with pompous speeches and empty talk. It is a unity by work and not by muscle flexing, military force, and [word indistinct]. It is by positive and real work that seeks the [word indistinct] objective. This is the key.

I say that brother President Husni Mubarak had an unparalled trust in Libya, really. I hope that he confers part of his confidence in Libya on Sudan because Sudan is very good and is doing well. It is setting up people's power. Sudan is not at all hostile, especially toward Egypt or Libya. [passage omitted]

Now I am telling you the truth that genuine confidence has been built between the Libyans and the Egyptians from the highest level [words indistinct] and I hope that I seek refuge from the mischief of the envious one as he practices envy. Those who envy and those who conspire and the devils of the human race and the demons conspire by God. There is mischief of the whisperer who whispers into the hearts of mankind among genies and among men. All these are anticipated, and all these wicked people get angry when they see that there is trust and love among the people. Is this their job? I do not understand. We must pay attention to this.

As for me, national action and crucial action which are connected with the future of the Arab nation are worth nothing, and these points cannot be submitted; any journalist added words, a newspaper added words, a radio station added words, a person conspired, a sick person, a spiteful person. All those we consider [words indistinct] the mischief of the envious one as he practices envy [words indistinct] Egypt and Libya remain. Egypt and Libya, irrespective of individuals, and the Arab nation remains the Arab nation.

We wish to God this action will one day be completed in Sudan, and I stand up to this moment beside Sudan, defending it, and I am still saying that Sudan's orientations are popular and sincere. The truth is that there is maturity in the Sudanese leadership this time. I have not heard talk about Arab unity and the Arab nation and its future in Sudan before. I testify to the truth. No doubt there is a misunderstanding. We have found harmony from the two parties for dialogue and overcoming the misunderstanding. I hope that you hasten work on the Jaghbub-Siwa road, to make it passable for traffic as soon as possible.

There are closed air lines between southern Egypt and southern Libya which should be opened. For instance, for an Egyptian plane wishing to fly [word indistinct] to Niger or to Africa, there is a line across Al-Kufra. This line must be opened. Libyan airlines which leave Libya to southern Egypt when flying to the Arab east must open its eyes and pass by Cairo, and it passes by Banghazi or Tripoli. All airlines between the the two countries and those which cross the two countries, used by either country, Egypt or Libya, must be opened.

The port of Tubruq should be a port for both countries. Goods arrive or are exported from there, goods coming to or exported from Al-sallum must come from a nearby place to the port of Tubruq rather than coming from the Alexandria port. This increases its price, cost, and effort. We have decided that Alexandria becomes a unified shipyard. All ships are to be built there. All investments will be there. Libyan technicians and architects will join the Egyptian architects to build commercial ships, fishing ships, skiffs, boats for tourism and transportation and for everything [words indistinct].

Generally this is a happy and blessed hour, and in truth I feel satisfied because I, as an ordinary, unionist, Arab citizen, feel that one of my wishes is nearing its fulfillment. There is no doubt that the confidence which I felt from the brother president [words indistinct], the ministers who are among the best. The truth is that it is a testimony from the Libyans when they tell me about the harmony they fould among the Egyptian side. It is unprecedented, and we have not seen it from any Arab

country. They say their confidence surpassed ours and their aspirations surpassed ours, and every minister among you is certain of thanks from his Libyan counterpart [words indistinct].

This Egyptian minister is good [words indistinct] so and so is pharonic. I am telling you frankly that now I have not heard these phrases, never [words indistinct] brothers [words indistinct] his origin is from Libya, and I do not know where he is from before Libya [words indistinct]. Is it not possible that the group's origin is Libya? Libya and Egypt are one country. Whenever you say Libya, you mean Egypt, and when you say Egypt, you say Libya. We were coming from Egypt and going to Egypt. We were coming from Libya and going to Libya. You do not know when we were at this or that place. The Arabs emigrated from the east to the west and returned from the west to the east. Then they tried to come back again for the second and third time. All this created the distribution of the Arab tribes [words indistinct] and Egypt was on the side, I mean in the middle, Cairo or Al-Fustat. The issue of Libya, I do not know. It is one of the issues extending from Mauritania to Arabia. The issue of Libya is a new one.

With your efforts this gain has been achieved. We must in reality praise the role of President Husni Mubarak who made us reach this point. He gave us practical encouragement and trust and we found in him trust and enthusiasm. If I had seen a hesitating president, I would not have [words indistinct]. President Husni Mubarak really takes the credit; he is the one who encouraged us to make these proposals and put forward these agreements because the green light really exists between the two countries. If the statements of President Mubarak are implemented, there will be real unity [word indistinct] saying that the two peoples should be one and that we must change anything which stops the two peoples from getting together. Let the two peoples live together in Libya and in Egypt. It is rare in reality [words indistinct] particularly that his words are linked to deeds. There is one who talks and says we will achieve unity, but when it comes to action, you find a hundred obstacles. You will find a law, customs, security, a foreign service, and a governor [words indistinct].

This session, despite its simplicity, is considered a very important one and has crowned the intensive, sincere, and serious work for bringing closer the day of unity between the two countries, which is a necessary fate for Arabs. May God make you successful. The struggle continues to achieve this unity. [applause]

Libyan-Egyptian Joint Committee Issues Communique

LD0907131891 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Jul 91

(Text) Banghazi, 9 Jul (JANA)—A final communique outlining the results of the meetings of the first session of the Libyan Arab-Egyptian Joint Committee was issued in Banghazi yesterday. The Libyan Arab and Egyptian sides expressed their satisfaction with the positive results reached by the committee.

The communique stated that integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and sister Egypt is a historical fact and that the agreements over which ratification documents were exchanged constitute the basic structural unit on the road to integration with a view to achieving unity between the sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The final communique, which was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee and by Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in Banghazi yesterday, added that the committee approved the executive arrangements for projects and agreements in transport and communications. As a result, work on building a 200-km rail line linking Tubruq and Al Sallum, and a road link between the oases of Siwah and al-Jaghbub, will start this month.

The communique indicated that the committee approved the increase of telephone lines between the two countries and the continuation of the project for laying down the underwater cable between Al Sallum and Msa'id, linking the Arab Maghreb Union with the Mashriq via Egypt. The two sides also agreed to meet the Great Jamahiriyah's needs for telephone exchange equipment manufactured in Egypt.

Furthermore, the committee approved a strategy of coordination and cooperation between the Libyan Arab and Egyptian merchant fleets, building and repairing Libyan Arab ships at the Alexandria shipyard, and setting up coordination between the ports of Tubruq and Alexandria in receiving and exporting goods.

In the field of agriculture, the two sides hailed the joint cooperation and the efforts of the companies in the two sister countries. The communique stressed the need to speed up the creation of joint agricultural companies to work on the free flow of agricultural and livestock products, the creation of a joint body for exploiting water resources, and setting up joint ventures for deep sea fisheries.

The communique also stressed the need to bolster cooperation in the fields of training, the rationalization of using energy and wind energy to generate power, and in projects for manufacturing solar powered heaters.

In health and medicines, the committee expressed its satisfaction with the positive steps made in this respect and emphasized the importance of speeding up projects for manufacturing pharmaceutical raw materials and medical supplies.

In teaching, it has been decided to set up a committee to follow up the program signed between the two countries with a view to coordinating efforts for standardizing school syllabuses, curricula, books, and exam systems, introducing equivalent academic qualifications, and

drawing up common rules for enrolling students at the various stages of their schooling. The two sides also agreed to cooperate in preparing teachers and their training and to endeavor to carry out the project for creating the Libyan Arab-Egyptian fund for technical and scientific consultations with a view to utilizing the technical resources in the interest of the two countries.

In the field of information, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the steps taken to establish cooperation. The communique indicated that a station had been set up to receive the Egyptian space channel and exchange a unified transmission between the television in the Great Jamahiriyah and the Egyptian first television channel.

It has also been decided to set up a joint committee of customs directors which will meet regularly every four months to follow up the implementation of customs agreements and to ensure the free and rapid flow of goods between the two countires, in addition to the coordination of efforts in joint exports.

Moreover, it has been decided to set up a specialized technical committee headed by an appointed secretary who will occupy himself exclusively with the follow-up and coordination and the implementation of the committee's decisions. He will be assisted in his work by a number of experts. This committee will be in permanent session.

Bahrain

Amir Receives Japanese Parliamentary Delegation

JN0907164891 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Manama, July 91 (GNA)—H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman al Khalifah received here this morning a Japanese parliamentary delegation headed by Acting Chairman of Research Commission on Security of Policy Research Council Taku Yamazaki [name and title as received], currently visiting the country.

During the audience, H.H. the amir hailed the strong relations between the two countries in various fields, and expressed Bahrain's endeavor for further cooperation with Japan to benefit from Japanese experiences in training Bahraini technical cadres.

H.H. the amir also highlighted Japan's positive stand during the Gulf crisis, and its backing to the international legitimacy in its effort to liberate Kuwait.

He outlined as well Japanese government efforts which contributed in bringing security and stability to the region.

On his part, Yamazaki affirmed to H.H. the amir his country's commitment to boost security, stability and peace in the region and encourage international diplomatic efforts to solve Middle East problems.

He expressed appreciation to the assistance provided by the Bahraini Government during the Gulf war which ended by the liberation of Kuwait and the return of its legitimacy.

The Japanese official also affirmed his government's keenness to enhance aspects of cooperation between the two countries at all levels.

Present at the audience were Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak al Khalifah, Development and Industry Minister and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Yusuf al-Shirawi and the Japanese Ambassador to Bahrain Tashiro Ogushi.

The Japanese delegation arrived here early this morning on a two-day visit as part of a regional tour.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Addresses National Council

LD0907173391 London KUNA in Arabic 1122 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Address by Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah at the opening of the second session of the Kuwaiti National Council in Kuwait City on 9 July]

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 9 Jul (KUNA)—In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "If God supports you, no one will defeat you; and if He abandons you, who will support you after Him; so let the believers rely on God." [Koranic verse]

Brother chairman and members of the respected National Council, we praise God Almighty who gave us victory and saved us from injustice and aggression and returned our dear Kuwait free, proud, and standing tall, to hold its place among the nations and to work for the good of its sons, for the good of its Arab and Islamic nation, and also for the good of all of mankind.

It is my pleasure to express in my own name and on behalf of my brother members of the government my deepest consideration for and pride in my brothers the loyal people of Kuwait, who endured the most hideous forms of tyranny and torture and stood fast in the face of the criminal aggressor, thus embodying our national unity, defending legality, and rejecting all conspiracies of the spiteful invaders.

This historic stand was confirmed by the Kuwaiti People's Conference that convened last October in Jeddah, representing the sons of Kuwait with all its sections and official and civilian bodies and institutions and declaring to the entire world its absolute rejection of the Iraqi regime's occupation of Kuwait, its stand behind its legitimate leadership, and its determination to continue the struggle until liberation.

The convening of the Kuwaiti People's Conference and the recommendations it issued were the best confirmation of the people's contribution to continue assuming their responsibilities in the phase of liberation and for their determination to rebuild and reconstruct their country. Out of the conference emanated the higher consultative body in charge of following up all matters relating to pushing the march for liberation of our dear homeland forward, backing the struggle and steadfastness of our proud people, and mobilizing all energies to build the Kuwait of the future. The people's delegations also set out carrying with them Kuwait's voice loud and clear to all the states of the world and to every Arab, Islamic, and international meeting to strengthen our position and serve our cause, which was the top issue in the world's attention until victory and liberation were achieved with God's help and thanks to the unity of ranks and stands, the continuous struggle, and the dear sacrifices. This imposes upon us all to do our utmost and to show the highest commitment to sound planning and to work seriously and sincerely toward the reconstruction of our country in this fateful phase of the history of our dear homeland.

The government is confident that your respectable council will do its best help realize the wishes of our people and fulfill their ambitions, acting on the basis of clear policies that will achieve what is good for the homeland and the citizens.

I feel I must address my thanks and gratitude to all the heads of government and heads of state of the countries that stood by us against the criminal aggression and supported us in driving out the tyrannical occupant until God blessed us with a great victory and our dear homeland was liberated. I give my praise and appreciation to the sister countries that granted hospitality to the sons of our people and offered them every help and support and provided them with all the necessary means with which to defend our just cause.

For you respectable council, I salute the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud, king of the sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who made the cause of Kuwait his top cause, doing his utmost in all fields until victory was achieved and aggression was defeated.

I also hail the effective role played by the United Nations, particularly the Security Council and secretary general, in confronting the tyrannical Iraqi aggression, supporting right, and defending international legality.

Brother members, your esteemed council began to perform its duties in July of last year; however, Kuwait and even the entire world was surprised on 2 August by the treacherous Iraqi invasion, which was a sinful aggression on all Arab, Islamic, and human principles and values, and a flagrant violation of Arab and international conventions. It was inevitable for the legitimate authority in the state to move to another position in which we could work and struggle along with the loyal sons of our people to liberate our dear homeland, drive out the occupier from our precious land, and restore sovereignty to the whole national soil. [passage omitted]

Now that Kuwait has been cleansed of the stain of the odious Iraqi occupation, your esteemed council has returned to perform its duties, eptimozing the principle of shura [consultation] and popular participation to help and monitor the government's discharge of its tasks until the decree inviting the electorate to elect the new National Assembly in October 1992.

The government, while presenting to you today the main courses of action of its work program during the coming period, registers its respect and appreciation to the Kuwaiti judiciary, being one of the major components of the state's powers, and affirms making available to it every potential to assist it in discharging its sublime mission.

Brother members of the respected council, we are working today in the shadow of internal and international circumstances differing greatly from those that prevailed when your respected council convened in its first session. We witness on the internal level a reality the state has never seen before. The vicious occupier has been defeated, leaving behind total dilapidation and destruction that requires all of us to exert maximum efforts for the sake of rebuilding our country so that it can regain its natural role in all fields.

The work to bring our imprisoned, detained, and missing sons held by the Iraqi regime is at the forefront of our priorities. We are bent on cooperating with all countries and regional and international organizations for the sake of achieving this, and we will not leave a road untrodden to ensure their release and their safe return to their families and relatives very soon, God willing. We shall also not forget our reverent martyrs who sacrificed their virtuous lives for the country's redemption. Their everlasting memory will remain a cause of reverence and honor, and the state will sponsor their families at present and in the future.

Also among the priorities to which we devote our attention is pursuing the completion of the demarcation of the borders between Kuwait and Iraq according to what the Security Council decided in its Resolution No. 687, on the basis of the two agreements between the two countries in 1932 and 1962, that is to emphasize Kuwait's sovereignty over the entirety of its territories. A committee set up by the UN for this purpose has started its activities.

Out of eagerness to consolidate and firmly establish security in all quarters of the country and remove the bad traces that the unjust Iraqi aggression generated, work has started on purging the country of the evil elements that constitute a danger to the security of the homeland and the citizens' safety, in addition to collecting all weapons, ammunition, and explosives. [passage omitted]

Before the Iraqi invasion, the Kuwaiti economy had been a shining example of progress, prosperity, and accompanying modern developments in the world of finance and economics. However, the treacherous aggression has led to negative effects, which are reflected in the performance of commercial and industrial firms and companies, and banks and financial institutions, which in turn caused damage to the national economy. The government is determined to stand up to these negative phenomena by supporing these economic units and assisting them to overcome what difficulties they face to move the wheel of national economy and return economic conditions to their previous era of vitality and agility, racing along toward more growth and comfort for our dear country.

Brother members, the vicious Iraqi occupier committed a hideous crime, unparalleled in history, by setting fire to some 730 oil wells, destroying storage centers, depots, and other oil plants and installations. This criminal and rancorous act inflicted on our homeland huge material losses: the burning of between 6 and 7 million barrels of oil daily, equivalent to a loss of $100-120 million a day, in addition to the dangers surrounding the oil fields, the land, marine, and air environment. The government has mobilized all its capabilities to extinguish these destructive fires and has called for the help of a number of states and competent foreign companies, which are currently

making continuous efforts to put out the oil well fires and put an end to this national disaster. [passage omitted]

The government has continued its efforts for recovering funds and stolen property that were looted by the aggressor Iraqi regime and compelling it to pay compensation for the losses and damage it caused to our country and people, in readiness to pursue the aggressor Iraqi regime and ask it for compensation in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions. A law has been issued lately for setting up the general body for estimating compensations for the losses caused by the Iraqi aggression. [passage omitted]

Brother members, on the international level, the Iraqi criminal aggression and the war of liberation have highlighted the importance of cooperation among the states of the region and fraternal and friendly states to guarantee a security system for peace and security for the states of the region, and work for consolidating the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] role and increasing its efficiency and coordination with the fraternal and friendly states, which stood bravely by our side under the aegis of the principles of right and justice.

Kuwait will remain, as it was, committed to the constant principles of its foreign policy, which is based on the protection of its independence, sovereignty, and independence of its political decisions and the Arab and Islamic (?conviction) that time has come for a sincere stand to face the facts of our Arab reality to assess the weak stances of some Arab governments in facing the Iraqi criminal occupation of our dear homeland. These stances contradict the principles and values that must prevail over all the Arab states. Despite the events experienced by Kuwait, as a result of this negligence in Arab action, Kuwait will remain committed to its principles in defense of the fateful issues of the Arab and Islamic people.

Kuwait also affirms its commitment to continue the positive contribution in the international consensus, based on the need to achieve a peaceful and just solution to the Middle East issues, remove the weapons of mass destruction from the region, and establish peace and security in it.

Brother members, while submitting to you these broad lines of its program of action, the government thereby affirms its belief in shura, popular participation, and the importance of cooperation for the good of the homeland and citizens.

Brother members of the council, our dear homeland is today going through a fateful and decisive stage in the history of its march, a stage full of great dangers and challenges that impose on us all sincere cooperation to reconstruct and repair the ruination and destruction left by the aggressors in our facilities and installations, and to put out the fires kindled by the hands of rancor to swallow our natural resources and the source of our national income.

Our combat with the criminal aggressor will not finish until we remove the last effect of its heinous aggression from our good land; until our prisoners return, whom it is still injustly detaining; until we retrieve all the assets of our people, which it plundered; and until we complete the demarcation of our borders definitely, with the knowledge and guarantee of the international community, so that we guarantee safety and stability for our homeland and our people, and so that Kuwait may again be a house of safety, security, and prosperity for its people and residents in its territory.

Brother members, our dear Kuwait is now more than ever in need of the efforts of all its loyal sons to work together to reconstruct it, and to foil—by their unity and cohesiveness of their ranks—the evil schemes of the enemy, just as they foiled its criminal aggression with their struggle and resistance.

Let us put Kuwait's supreme interest above every interest, and let all help each other for reconstruction. Let all views and positions converge for the sake of the homeland, and let all ranks unite in a single national front that embodies our unity, preserves the sovereignty of our homeland, protects its security and independence, and keeps the greed of the rancorous ones and the schemes of criminals away from it.

While the cooperation of all the sons of Kuwait in this fateful stage is a national duty imposed by conditions and developments around us, the cooperation of all is the basic pillar for shura and popular participation, which has been and will remain, God willing, a distinctive feature of our society. [passage omitted]

Chairman Addresses Council

LD0907163591 London KUNA in Arabic 1016 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Address by National Council Chairman 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Misa'id at the opening of the second session of the Kuwaiti National Council in Kuwait City on 9 July]

[Excerpts] Kuwait 9 Jul (KUNA)—Praise be to God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Your highness, I am honored to offer you and the loyal Kuwaiti people, in my own name and on behalf of my brothers, the members of the National Council, the most lofty congratulations on the occasion of the liberation of the land and the return of the homeland to its owners. [passage omitted]

The peaceful, secure, Muslim, Arab, Kuwaiti people went through a horrendous trial and a severe test in which all sorts of ordeals gathered against it in a manner unprecedented in the history of mankind. They were betrayed by he who had made peace with it, deceived by he who had come to terms with it. They were violently attacked by a brother, and those close to them rejoyced in this. Their hand was bitten by the one to whom they

did good, and the one who was sharing their bread and home had clapped his hands at their ordeal. [passage omitted]

That ordeal has undoubtedly unmasked ugly faces, vile souls, and hearts full of hatred and envy and unveiled the falseness of conspirators, hypocrites, and imposters who trade in the causes of the nation and the interests of the Arab peoples. It also showed the depth of relations between the leaders and peoples of the Arab Gulf region, and unveiled the purity of the sincere fraternity of the sons of the Arab Republic of Egypt and their brothers of the Syrian Arab Republic who were and still are the shield of the nation and its impregnable bulwark.

Your highness, honorable brothers, the sinful aggressor was able to destroy the country, sabotage its utilities, pollute its waters, and burn its oil wells; but, thanks be to God, it could not harm our determination, or weaken our will, or buy out our consciences. We came out of the hell of the ordeal as we had always been, with hearts filled with determination to reconstruct what was spoiled by the rancorous invasion. [passage omitted]

Your Highness, honorable brothers, when we responded to the call to participate in this council of ours, our hope was to boost popular participation, protect the parliamentary experience, and reinforce the democratic process in our dear country. But the vicious aggression had prevented our take-off and impeded our march. We were extremely happy by the contents of the promise made by the leaders of our march and symbol of our unity, His Highness the Amir, may God protect him, to restore full parliamentary life in accordance with the 1962 constitution next year, so as to do away with rumors, unify language, bring ranks together, and direct energies toward reconstruction and protection of the country.

Your Excellency, honorable brothers, while we begin the second ordinary session of our council, we must not forget our dear sons and own children who are still far from their precious homeland as prisoners in the jails of the unjust regime in Iraq. We must all—government and people—use our utmost efforts to bring them back safe to their homes and families. This must be at the top of our priorities and preoccupations.

We would also like to express, Your Excellency, our great thanks and profound appreciation to all those who supported our just cause and contributed to the process of liberating our dear homeland—presidents, peoples, governments, and institutions. The grateful people of Kuwait will not forget the fair stand of those honorable [people] and will remember them with appreciation and admiration for generations to come, God willing. [Passage omitted]

Bank Says No Restriction on Transfer of Funds

LD1007101391 London KUNA in Arabic 0914 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Jul (KUNA)—In an interview published here today, Kuwait Central Bank Governor Shaykh Salim 'Abd al-'Aziz al- Sabah said Kuwait will not impose any restrictions on the transfer of funds abroad or on their exchange for foreign currencies.

In an interview with daily AL-QABAS the governor said Kuwait adheres to the policy which it pursued in the past and which freely allows the transfer of funds abroad.

The governor anticipated that the transfer of bank notes currently done by car through land outlets will cease as soon as the restrictions on the exchange of foreign currencies end on 3 August. The governor pointed out that citizens and residents will be able to deal with checks as soon as the current bank restrictions on withdrawals and exchange of foreign currencies end 23 days from now.

The governor revealed that the Central Bank, "in cooperation with the Higher Council of Planning", has finished a study on developing Kuwait as a financial center and on how the domestic economy will benefit from offshore banks. This study, he said, has concluded that offshore banks operate basically on transfering funds from the local markets abroad and that the scope of benefits from them to the domestic economy is very limited.

Saudi Arabia

PRC's Li Peng Makes Statement Upon Arrival

LD0907203991 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Excerpts] PRC State Council Premier Mr Li Peng arrived in Jeddah this evening on a visit to Saudi Arabia. His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, was awaiting the premier at King 'Abd-al-Aziz international airport. He was also received by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and avaition, and inspector general. [passage omitted]

On his arrival at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport in Jeddah, PRC State Council Premier issued a statement to SPA. Here is the text:

It pleases me very much to pay an official visit to your country in response to the invitation of the Saudi government.

I should like to take this opportunity to convey the warm greetings and sincere respect of the Chinese government and people to the Saudi government and people.

The Saudi government and people, behind the leadership of His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, are actively working toward developing the national economy whose pillar is the petroleum industry. Saudi Arabia has accomplished well-guided and considerable achievements in building itself and

raising the standard of living of the people. The Chinese government and people express their extreme appreciation and admiration for this, and the Saudi people will achieve new and continuous gains in building and developing their country and preserving their national independence.

The friendship between the Chinese and Saudi peoples goes back to ancient history. Thanks to the mutual care and efforts exerted by the leaders of the two countries, diplomatic relations between China and Saudi Arabia were established last July. This was not only in the interest and in response to the wishes of both peoples, but also in the interest of international peace and stability.

The ties of friendship and cooperation between our countries have witnessed satisfactory development since the establishment of diplomatic relations between them.

During this visit I will have the honor of getting acquainted with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, and I will exchange views with them about means to further develop bilateral realtions, and about international and regional issues of mutual interest.

I am convinced that Chinese-Saudi amicable cooperation relations, which are based on the five principles of peaceful co-existence, will definitely be developed and strengthened through our joint efforts.

United Arab Emirates

Soviet Joint Venture Planned for 'Next Month'

JN0907164991 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 9 (GNA)—A joint trade venture between the Emirate of Umm al-Qaywayn and a Soviet Government concern is to be finalised next month, a trade representative said.

M. A. Ahmad director of Umm al-Qaywayn Trade Centre told the UAE [United Arab Emirates] newspaper English language 'GULF NEWS' he would travel to Moscow in August to sign the final contract establishing the Arab-Russian trade company.

The ventures capital will be held equally between the UAE Trade Centre and a company run by the Soviet Union but eventually he expects there to be transactions in hard currency.

"They are looking for clothing, foodstuffs, and electronics from us (in the UAE) and instead of those goods we will take raw materials," he said.

The UAE Ministry of Economy and Commerce signed an agreement last year with the Soviet Union setting up the committee for trade and economic cooperation to develop mutual trade.

Ahmad said the committee may hold its first meeting by the end of this year.

Opposition Claims Saddam Assassination Attempt

NC0907172991 Paris AFP in English 1713 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, July 9 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn recently escaped an assassination attempt in the southern Shiite holy city of Karbala', an Iraqi opposition group said here Tuesday.

Rebels staged an "heroic operation against the convoy of Saddam Husayn as it passed through Karbala', close to the mausoleum of Abu-al-Fadil al-'Abbas," the Islamic Action Organization said.

It claimed the attack had killed the local head of intelligence, Hamad Hasan, security officer Salah 'Ali al-Khayyat and ruling Ba'th Party official Ali Majid.

General 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Samarra'i, his aide Colonel Jalal al-'Ubaydi and several others were wounded, the Shiite group said in a statement. It did not give a date for the reported assassination bid.

A recent attack in a Baghdad officers' club had killed "several government officials including Ibrahim Ta'nih, a leading Ba'th Party member, and security officer Hazim al-Haythi," it added.

There was no confirmation of the claims.

Saddam Meets With Tunisian Party Leader

JN0907164791 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that the future is for the Arab nation, that all contrary laws are within the framework of the laws of those who fear the nation's development, prosperity, and progress, and that this nation does not want to attack any nation. His excellency said: Our Arab nation is neither an aggressive nor an expansionist nation. Our nation rejects aggression, humiliation, and trusteeship.

During his meeting with Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, secretary general of the Tunisian Progressive Socialist Party and the members of the party Political Bureau, his excellency added: Our nation has the right to live free and with dignity as well as to have its sovereignty and free decisionmaking. Other nations have this right, which is part of the human rights the new colonialist imperialists talk about.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and official in charge of the regional command Foreign Relations Office.

Addresses Tunisian Delegation

JN1007084291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that our Arab nation is neither an aggressive nor an expansionist nation. Our nation rejects aggression, humiliation, and trusteeship.

During his meeting with Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, secretary general of the Tunisian Progressive Socialist Party, and the members of the Party Political Bureau, his excellency said that our nation has the right to live in freedom and with dignity as well as the right to sovereignty and free decisionmaking like all other nations.

President Saddam added that the Iraqis are nationalists, sincere, and faithful and the many years of the revolution's march have entrenched principles in their minds and have given them more significant meanings. He affirmed that the basic task now is to rebuild what the aggressors and the agents had destroyed.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and official in charge of the regional command Foreign Relations Office.

The following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's address:

I welcome you in your Baghdad and among your own people. What is important for us is not to settle the question of which country leads, but to pursue the interaction between us and your hearts and conscience as Arabs, on the basis of one united Arab nation which has the same fate and on the basis of the Arab nation's potentials and not only on the basis of which of these potentials is available at this or that stage. [passage omitted]

Thus, we seek to create the circumstances for sound interaction in the nation to enable the nation to be in a position that will allow it to optimally exploit its potential toward resurgence. We are happy when we notice that this has been achieved on a broad scale throughout the nation. The enemy blows can disrupt telephone contacts between Baghdad and the governorates, but they cannot prevent this interaction among the sons of the nation.

Interaction exists through these noble sentiments you have expressed. What is more certain and more reliable is what becomes deeply embedded in the hearts of people and not the number of Arab army units which may fight alongside the Iraqis on the battlefront, although we would have been happier had the Arab state of affairs permitted such a thing. However, we know that the Arab state of affairs does not permit such a rescue. Had this state of affairs permitted such a rescue, the aggression would not have taken place. [passage omitted]

We are fully aware of how good and bad and conspiratorial officials depict our nation. However, good officials who interact with the good elements in the nation enjoy another description. Therefore, not all official postures in the nation, including positive ones, are fully in harmony with the popular posture of the nation. It is natural that we say that the traitorous, deviant makeup of the

nation can never be representative of the minimum level of the nation's characteristics, or of the will of one of these countries. So, you should not say you feel ashamed when meeting the Iraqis, because you could not do more than you have done. This is because we know that partition, given the Arab and international situation which we have briefly outlined, places the major burden of the nation's awakening on one of these countries in every stage of its historical progress. Since we are divided, and given the existence of the illegitimate interests of foreign powers on our nation's territory and among the ranks of its sons, bringing about this awakening must be shouldered by one country at every stage.

But when all resources are mobilized to bring about this awakening in any part of the nation, all the elements of evil are also mobilized to thwart it. Physical confrontation, of course, depends on the resources of the whole nation, not the resources of an individual country. And when a direct clash takes place, the resources of this individual country would be the basis for facing the resources that have been mobilized against the nation as a whole—in all its depth, history, present, and future. We knew the correct description of [word indistinct] a long time ago. [passage omitted]

We fully agree with you on the reasons for the malicious campaign against our nation by the Western countries which participated in the aggression and by the Western policy and decisionmakers. This malice cannot be the outcome of a few months or years, and it cannot be the product of the present stage alone. It has to do with the present, past, and the essence of our distant legacy and the spiritual heritage of our nation. That is why we see that the present war is similar to the one Salah-al-Din al-Ayyubi fought. This war is prompted by the fear of linking the present and future with the bright episodes of the glorious past of our nation, in terms of its unity, and the justice and fairness on which its power was based when it was unified, and [word indistinct] and its human role [words indistinct].

The Iraqis believe in Omnipotent, Almighty God, and believe that what they are facing today is transient and will come to an end. They also know that the division of the nation takes its toll on their sincere nationalism and their attempts to embody this link between patriotism and nationalism. I say that they embody this interdependence between sublime patriotism and creating the elements to bring about a sublime nationalist awakening. Therefore, the Iraqis know that the bulk of the responsibility will be on their shoulders without it being distributed fairly and impartially among the Arab countries on an equal basis. [passage omitted]

The future is for the nation. All contrary laws are within the framework of the laws of those who fear the nation's development, prosperity, and steadfastness. It is an illegitimate and unjustified fear, especially since the Arab nation does not want to attack any country on earth. Our nation is neither an aggressive nor an expansionist nation. However, it rejects aggression, expansion, injustice, and humiliation. It rejects attempts to return it to the logic of trusteeship. The Arab nation believes that in accordance with the laws of God and man, it has the right to live in freedrom and with dignity as well as the right to its sovereignty and free decisionmaking. Other nations have this right, which is part of the human rights the new colonialist imperialists talk about. By repeating them, they only want them to be slogans for deception and [word indistinct] to apply their colonialist imperialist theory against nations, in the forefront of which is the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Arab oil is for the Arabs. This is a slogan I raised when I was a student because I believed in it, and after becoming a president, I cannot question this slogan after believing in it for more than 30 years. The needy ones have a right in the wealth of the rich. This is another slogan in which we believed, and we cannot disavow it after we have come into possession of billions, or became able to have billions, even if we presume that we have them as persons, God forbid. They wish that we, as individuals, can have billions. They want us to take billions from the nation's wealth just as some shaykhs took possession of oil.

All the Iraqis suffered, not only the men whom you see. However, when you ask an enlightened person, he says yes, we adhere to our principles more now than at any time in the past. It is true that the bombs were also dropped on women and children. However, the men remained faithful and strong. But it is difficult to ask a weak woman whether she remains as strong and faithful as she used to be and to get the same strong answer you will get from men. What applies to women might apply to children and the elderly. I do not mean that woman is weak in the tribal sense of the word, but that both men and women have their own fields. [passage omitted]

Only the stalwart, trained men fought the second battle, because trained men are more capable of fighting than untrained men. They fought for eight years and achieved victory. As for this battle, in which we won what we have won, the children played a historic role just like the men on the front lines, because children were exposed to the danger of death. The women and old people were also like men. For, in such a short time, everything was disrupted—telephone contacts, electricity, water. Food supplies also became meager because of the embargo, and because some items were distributed by the Trade Ministry. Bridges, roads and civilian and military vehicles were hit. So it was natural for supplies to arrive late.

Then the second chapter began, before we managed to recuperate. This chapter was manifested in the treason and treachery arranged by Iran and its weak-willed mobs. In spite of all this, we nursed our wounds and held our swords in our hands and started fighting them, until we saved the country from this new ordeal. Our enemies and yours did not think that this international conspiracy would pass safely. But it did. [passage omitted]

The fundamental chapter of struggle at present lies in rebuilding what was destroyed by the aggressors and agents. Success comes from God and the high resolve of the stalwarts in Iraq. Some said that parts of what was destroyed need five years to be rebuilt, provided that Western resources and capabilities are involved. However, we have repaired parts of what was destroyed in days, weeks, or months. Some other parts might take a year or so.

This situation is part of the struggle and jihad process, because the will to bring about a concrete level of optimism that would be felt by Arabs is more effective than the will to fight.

We not only know how to fight, we are originally good builders. That is why we were targeted. We were not targeted because we are good fighters, but because we are good builders. Good builders, however, should be good fighters so as to ward off harm from their country. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy on 'Comprehensive, Clear' Arms List

JN1007064591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraqi UN representative in New York, by Suhayl Khuri on 10 July—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Mr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, what do you expect from the Security Council now that Iraq has met all its commitments in accordance with Security Council resolutions?

[Al-Anbari] Bilateral consultations are currently under way between the president and members of the Council to work out the Council's agenda for this month. I believe that the list Iraq has submitted in relation to the weapons that fall under the cease-fire resolution was comprehensive, clear, and detailed, containing everything the Iraqi side was asked to present. However, reactions of most member states and international organizations have not yet crystallized because the document, as I have said, is lengthy and contains many scientific terms that take time to translate.

[Khuri] Do you think, Your Excellency Mr. Ambassador, that there is some change in the general atmosphere at the Security Council in favor of Iraq?

[Al-Anbari] To tell you the truth, the vast majority of the Security Council is in favor of lifting the economic blockade on Iraq and dealing with this issue in a way that does not practically pass the death sentence on the children and women and sick people of Iraq. But one or two states only have the right to veto and are insisting on maintaining economic sanctions on Iraq, and perhaps they will try to issue the death sentence on Iraq.

[Khuri] Your Excellency the Ambassador, as you know, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens has noted the possibility of the U.S. aircraft attacking Iraqi positions. What is your comment?

[Al-Anbari] Well, anyone who commits aggression can do it again, as Israel itself has done. However, what is strange is that no one is emphasizing any aggressive or atomic program, be it in the Israeli entity, the racist state of South Africa, or the U.S. ships and aircraft carriers that are touring the world loaded with atomic bombs. Iraq is a peaceful country. It is eager to fulfill its commitments in accordance with the international law and UN Charter. Any transgression against its policy or attack on its territory is simply an international crime.

[Khuri] What do you expect from the visit of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who yesterday began talks with the Iraqi leadership?

[Al-Anbari] There is a comprehensive agreement between the Iraqi Government signed by the foreign minister and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive envoy of the UN secretary general. I think there is full cooperation between the two parties. Iraq has granted all the immunities and facilities that Prince Sadruddin requested for his envoy responsible for real humanitarian organizations that are providing some facilities, such as medicine and food, to some stricken areas which have had no access to these materials. Therefore, I expect these talks to succeed, as has happened before.

[Khuri] We thank Mr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations.

[Al-Anbari] You're welcome.

Arab Deportees Describe Conditions in Kuwait

JN1007082091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—Some 380 Arab citizens deported by the Kuwaiti authorities arrived in Safwan, al-Basrah Governorate, tonight, thus bringing the number of this week's deportees up to 421.

INA reporter in al-Basrah Governorate said the deportees looked very tired and ill as a result of detention, torture, and the terrorism practiced against them. They were received by the Red Cross and the Iraqi and Palestinian Red Crescent committees.

In a related development, the number of Arab citizens who managed to escape from the Kuwaiti authorities this week rose to more than 216. Within this context, some Arab citizens deported to the Safwan border area in al-Basrah Governorate said they had suffered from all sorts of terrorism, coercion, and inhumane practices at the hands of the Kuwaiti authorities. They told the INA reporter in al-Basrah that a number of Arab citizens were killed while others were exposed to torture, confiscation of property, and deportation from Kuwait merely because they were Arabs.

Raja' Abdallah from Jordan said that under the pretext of collaboration with Iraq, the Kuwaiti security organs tortured and killed people, fired people from public jobs, barred children from schools, and kept a large number of people under the burning sun for hours before expelling them to sisterly Iraq.

Wa'il Ahmad from Palestine said he lived in Kuwait for 20 years and spent his youthful years in serving and building Kuwait, but was rewarded by being terrorized; his rights and property were confiscated before he was deported. He stressed that the Kuwaiti authorities are planning to get rid of everything that is Arab and replace it by foreign labor.

Husayn 'Abdallah from Somalia said the Kuwaiti authorities' arbitrary measures conflict with all heavenly values and human rights. He added that the Kuwaiti authorities, employing Zionist and U.S. expertise, had killed, tortured, or maimed hundreds of Arab citizens. He said these authorities had even forced a Kuwaiti citizen to divorce his wife, who was later deported, simply because she was an Iraqi.

'Abd-al-Wahhab Ahmad from Sudan said Kuwait had become a city of ghosts and mass graves amid lawlessness and violation of all human rights. He added that the Arab citizen is targeted by more than one quarter. As soon as he is released by the army, he is arrested by the so-called resistance, police, and security organs. The only concern of these groups is to kill, torture, and deport the Arabs regardless of where they come from and how long they have been residing in Kuwait.

Khalil Tawfiq from Jordan stressed that the Kuwaiti authorities, directly supervised by the al-Sabah family, have employed the ugliest kinds of torture and harsh beating of Arabs, using electricity cables, extinguishing cigarettes on sensitive parts of their bodies, shaving women's hair, hanging people from their legs, and pouring hot water on them in a way that is unacceptable to God and His faithful worshipers. All this is done for no sin other than the allegation that they have collaborated with Iraq.

U.S. 'Leniency' With Iran's Armament Criticized

JN1007111391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the feverish Iranian armament confirms that the Iranian regime has not relinquished its expansionist ambitions and its old political trend.

In an article today, the paper says: The Iranian regime is still imagining that it can achieve its expansionist objectives and impose its will on the Arab nation and other regions' states by force. The Iranian peoples have paid and are still paying a dear price for their rulers' policies and trends.

The paper adds: The U.S. Administration and its European allies show a clear leniency toward the declared Iranian efforts to build the Bushehr reactor and to conclude more arms deals. In fact, they publicly encourage this regime's policies and trends and overtly and covertly respond to its demands.

The paper stresses that this takes place at a time when the U.S. Administration and its allies are rancorously and resolutely continuing to disarm Iraq and to launch a fabricated and unjust political propaganda campaign against it to divert attention from their hateful double standards in dealing with the armament issues, and their procrastination in lifting the unjust economic blockade against it.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: They are practicing the arm twisting policy against the Arab nation, overtly disturbing the military balance in the region, and encouraging the Tehran regime to continue its armament and nuclear programs. Despite all this, they are shamelessly talking about the future security and stability of this sensitive region of the world.

Kurdish Leaders Propose Compromise on Karkuk

NC1007133091 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, July 10 (AFP)—Kurdish leaders have given Baghdad a list of proposals aimed at reaching an accord on the future of Kurdistan with a possible compromise on oil-rich Karkuk, a source close to the Kurdistan Front said here on Wednesday.

The Front is a coalition of leading Kurdish opposition movements, notably Ma'sud Barzani's Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) and Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

The list was included in a six-part memorandum submitted July 6 to Iraqi Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi by Kurdish leaders in the northern town of Irbil.

Three Kurdish demands addressed the future status of Karkuk, which the Kurds claim as their historic capital, democracy in Iraq and security in the autonomous Kurdish region.

The final three points responded to demands from Baghdad concerning the surrender of heavy weapons, Kurdish radio stations and the Kurdish movements' contacts abroad.

"Our leaders have returned from Shaqlawah and are ready to go to Baghdad immediately to sign a definitive accord if President Saddam Husayn gives his approval," the source said.

Kurdistan Front leaders had been discussing the terms of an accord with Iraq in the Kurdish city of Shaqlawah for several weeks.

Meanwhile Iran's English-language daily Tehran Times reported Wednesday that Baghdad was mediating between Kurdish opposition groups and the Mojahedin-e Khalq which had clashed several times since the mojahedin joined Iraqi troops to crush the Kurdish rebellion in March.

The mojahedin are an Iraqi-based Iranian opposition group.

The Kurdish parties are calling for the mojahedin's withdrawal from Kurdistan, but Iraq has not yet agreed to the request, the paper said.

Radio Reports Attack on Government Troops

NC1007062591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] The popular command of the revolutionaries in the south has announced that [words indistinct] their struggle until they topple the teetering regime in Baghdad, a group of their fighters has carried out a bold, large-scale operation in the marshlands, inflicting very heavy losses on the enemy. The popular command reported that while small groups of rebels rapidly penetrated the criminal regime's battle lines, other groups surrounded the defeated regime's positions. Our heroic revolutionaries' attack threw the units of the (?regime's) mercenaries into a state of panic, and they fought among themselves. The clashes lasted for several hours and a large number of the teetering regime's troops were killed or wounded, while the remainder withdrew from the area.

*'Abd-al-Majid Expected To Meet Iraqis Soon

91AA0481A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jun 91 p 2

[Article: "'Abd-al-Majid's Tour Next Week; Jordanian Efforts To Arrange Iraqi Meeting With Arab League Secretary"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that contacts are currently underway between the Arab League Secretariat, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon to set the final dates for Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's tour of the three countries within the framework of his visits to the Arab countries following his election to the post of league secretary general. This tour is scheduled to begin next week.

Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have asserted that during his tour of the three countries, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will listen to the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese leaders' opinions on bolstering Arab solidarity and on the means capable of strengthening the Arab League's role in accomplishing this solidarity. Moreover, he will discuss the league's role in bolstering the al-Ta'if accord and establishing national concord in Lebanon. The sources noted that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's talks in the three countries will complement his first tour which covered the six GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states. In this tour, he has been focusing on exploring the Arab leaders' opinions on amending and developing the Arab League charter.

The sources have said that the Arab League secretary general's tours seek to prepare for the ordinary Arab League Council session which is scheduled to convene next September to discuss the agenda postponed from the previous session, held last May.

In a related development, Arab sources in Cairo have asserted that Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, conveyed to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, at a meeting they had recently, the Iraqi Government's wish to have a meeting between Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and Iraq's foreign minister and that Baghdad has proposed that this meeting be held in Amman during the league secretary general's visit because Iraq has not been included in the Arab League secretary general's tour by virtue of the current circumstances. Nabih al-Nimr, Jordan's ambassador to Egypt, has said that his country feels that there are open channels between Egypt and Jordan and that contacts take place between them directly.

After a meeting he had yesterday, Saturday, with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, the ambassador stated that he expects normal conditions to be restored as soon as possible.

Regarding the efforts currently being made to push the region's peace process forward, Nabih al-Nimr noted that no obstacle whatsoever is posed by the Arab side and that Israel fabricates obstacles, pointing out that Israel has not made any effort to surpass these obstacles and to enhance the peace process.

Reportage on Settlement Issue, U.S. Loans

Sharon on Settlement

TA0907175991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Report by Shmu'el Tal on the remarks of Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon during a tour of Rosh Ha'ayin on 9 July]

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon today toured construction sites in Rosh Ha'ayin, where he was briefed on the town's situation and problems. He noted that there is a direct link between the expansion of this township and the settlement activity in the territories. In his opinion, all the territories will become one urban entity over the upcoming years. Let us listen to him:

[Begin Sharon recording] Rosh Ha'ayin is rapidly moving eastward, toward the hills. I assume it will soon link with Elqana, and Elqana will link with Bet Aba and Qiryat Netafim, and they will link with Ari'el, and Ari'el will link with Tapuah, and they will all link with Migdalim, and Migdalim will link with Ma'ale Efrayim, and so on and so on up to the Jordan River. [end recording]

I asked Minister Sharon whether, in view of that vision, the Americans would give Israel guarantees for the large sums it needs for the absorption of immigrants. Minister Sharon replied that the two issues are not related.

[Begin Sharon recording] One is a matter of rescuing Jews from every exile where their lives are endangered, and the other is, first and foremost, our absolute right. It has to do with our very existence and our security. [end recording]

As for security, Minister Sharon said: Israel is monitoring the revelations about Iraq's nuclear plans. Those revelations underline Israel's need to maintain a strategic depth—namely, the entire territory between the Jordan River and the sea.

Costs of Loan Viewed

TA1007084891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jul 91 p 8

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] Israel is not now planning to offer to pay the "scoring costs" of the $10 billion in loan guarantees it is requesting from the United States, despite indications such a move would ease their approval, sources in the Finance Ministry said yesterday.

The "scoring cost" is the amount of money that must be put aside in the U.S. budget, according to law, against government loan guarantees. The cost may range anywhere from 0.5 percent to 7 percent or 8 percent of the total of the guarantees. In money terms, this would be anywhere from $55 million to $700 or $800 million. U.S. Office of Management and Budget officials are reportedly pressing for the higher sum, while Congress is pushing for the lower sum.

It is also unclear if the entire sum must be put aside up-front, or if it may be paid off over the course of a few years.

American Jewish officials have suggested that it may be worthwhile to Israel to offer to pay the scoring costs, if they do not exceed a certain amount, since this may make it easier to push the guarantees through Congress. The loan guarantees could then be represented as costing nothing to the American taxpayer. These officials suggested that the cutoff point should be 2.5 percent, and that if "scoring costs" were above this amount, it would not be worthwhile offering to pay them.

The Finance Ministry yesterday made a formal announcement that it is beginning work on the $10b. aid request, and that the multi-year budget currently being shaped is based on the assumption that the aid will be received.

The aid request, which is expected to be formally submitted immediately after Labor Day weekend in early September, will include a report on Israel's current economic situation and an outline of the country's economic program for the next few years. Finance Ministry officials said that they will highlight the efforts being made toward liberalization in various sectors.

A second point that will be emphasized in the report is that the loans will be used as bridge money, to tide the country over until the immigrants are absorbed into the labor force.

Meanwhile, a team from the International Monetary Fund is meeting for the second week with Finance Ministry and Bank of Israel officials, in preparation for the filing of the IMF biannual report on the state of the country's economy.

Israel has asked the IMF for a loan from its Compensatory Financing Facility, on the basis of the economic losses incurred because of the Gulf Crisis.

This type of loan is not conditional on following IMF directives and in the case of Israel, may not exceed $500 million. Sources in the Bank of Israel said that while the IMF visit is routine, and unrelated to the loan request, it may well be that the report by the IMF team will have a good deal of influence on whether Israel will receive the loan, and how large a loan it will receive.

Finance Ministry officials noted that the team this time includes a specialist on labor economics, demonstrating the importance the IMF attaches to the relative rigidity of the Israeli labor market.

U.S. Seen Winning Dispute

TA0407094291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Jul 91 B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "September Is Lurking Beyond the Summer"]

[Text] The method of debate George Bush used last week, in addressing the people of Israel on the settlement issue while going over the heads of its leaders, is a practice the Middle East has known for at least 2,692 years. Then, it was Rabshakeh who, representing the ancient world superpower Assyria, called on the residents of Jerusalem to force their government to stop its disastrous policy. Rabshakeh managed to upset the ancient Yitzhaq Shamirs so badly that they called on him not to use the "Jewish" language, which the masses on the walls could understand, but to use a foreign language known only to the leaders.

Bush is not our enemy. He is a friend and an ally. The world has changed since Biblical days, but the psychological technique of political rivals has not. In 701 B.C., Rabshakeh told the leaders that he did not wish to address the government; he wanted the masses. Bush is also pinning his hopes on Israeli public opinion, not the ministers.

He has a good chance of succeeding. Public opinion polls indicate that, although more Israelis support the Likud, fewer Herut Central Committee members today are willing to forsake U.S. funds for continued settlements. The government finds consolation in what it reads between the lines. Bush is not making guarantees for immigrant absorption loans conditional on stopping the settlements. The government is interpreting this to mean: business as usual.

It is making an obvious mistake because the struggle over the guarantees has not yet started. This is just an opening shot, a trial balloon. The Finance Ministry will not request the guarantees until September. Why should Bush use his heaviest piece of artillery before the forces have even been arranged? After all, a blatant conditioning might move the debate from essentials to style—from a debate over the fate of the peace process to a dispute over the right of a small ally to hold on to its position and not appear as a banana republic accepting dictates.

The stage of sending feelers is typically tainted with uncertainty. From Shamir's point of view, there is no need to rush. He is certain that the aliyah will continue at its current pace, that it will require vast fortunes, and that he cannot afford a head-on collision with his right-wing ministers. Most of al, he has what he likes most: time, time, time. September is lurking at the other end of the summer—not right now.

It is anybody's guess what will happen in this sensitive area in two months—one more small war between the United States and Iraq and the settlements of Talmon, Brakha, and Shilo growing from several houses and mobile homes into a flourishing rural region. With time, however, tension in relations with the United States will rise. Shamir will be able to agree to a concession in September, collect a hefty fee for it, and later diminish it as Begin did to Carter in Camp David. Some ministers already say with a sigh that "God is great." After all, early elections could save the day for a while.

It would be reasonable to assume that Shamir is more ambitious than that. He is not even preparing a contingency plan for a partial concession in September. He has not yet lost hope of deterring Bush from linking the guarantees with the cessation of settlements and of using the Israeli lobby in Washington to twist some arms in view of the U.S. elections. Bush is not Dwight D. Eisenhower, who could not care less for the Jewish vote, and the 1991 U.S. Jews are not the same scared Jews their fathers were in 1956.

Shamir believes that the Knesset opposition will not dare support conditioning aliyah on the termination of settlements, mainly because some of the doves have despaired of the Americans. No Israeli opposition could secretly cooperate with the United States, if it feels that, eventually, James Baker will sell it out somewhere "down the river" for a thorough discussion with Shamir.

The prime minister, however, must take into consideration the fact that one unnecessary round in the cat-and-mouse game with the United States could undo all the achievements that preceded it. He should beware of the possibility that one day the administration may decide to press without letting go, and this about shift could crush all that have been considered eternal assets for many years.

Will it happen this time around? Why did it not happen three months ago? Why not two years from now? It is hard to estimate whether U.S. rage has reached the boiling point. This prediction is something of a gamble. Still, it seems that, unless some unexpected crisis breaks out and attracts attention to another part of the world, this time it will happen.

Arabic Paper on Issue

TA0907183591 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Jul 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "And Israel Responded With a Slap to Bush!"]

[Text] The Israeli response to U.S. President Bush's remarks on settlement was prompt and challenging. Israeli Minister of Construction and Housing Ari'el Sharon inaugurated a new residential quarter in the West Bank settlement of Mevo Dotan and declared that the number of the settlement's inhabitants will increase still further. Sharon also said on that occasion that "the construction of settlements will continue." He added: "They tell us not to build. One concession leads to another. We cannot accept that." In the view of Sharon there is no connection between peace and land!

This Israeli response is a slap to the U.S. Administration. In addition, it is a blatant challenge to all the efforts being exerted by the Americans to advance the peace process. What is surprising is that Washington is resigned to the challenge and does not confront it; it only reiterates its position that settlements hurt the chances for a solution. Every time Washington criticizes Tel Aviv, existing settlements are expanded and new ones are established.

The settlement drive gets more intense after every U.S. statement or threat. As for the Palestinians, it would be better for us if the United States were to stop threatening and cease such rhetoric, because that has an adverse effect on us and increases Israel's activities and intransigence. Keeping silent is much better than declaring positions that are not backed by deeds.

A U.S. official stated yesterday that the U.S. Administration intends to reduce its pressure for advancing the peace process after reaching the conclusion that the parties lack adequate courage to engage in peace negotiations. Even in this statement Washington was afraid to put the blame for the failure of the peace process on Israel and its intransigence. Since President Bush made his commitment to advance the peace process, we have said that the Americans, to our knowledge, are not ready to indulge in maneuvers and play games with words. It is in their nature to want quick achievements. They do not possess the necessary patience that the region's problems and conflicts require.

It is obvious that Israel is trying to gain time in order to swallow up the land and impose a new fait accompli by altering the demography of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

All the Arab hopes that Washington will become convinced of the need to pressure Israel to moderate its positions are no more than daydreaming. Everyone knows that will never happen. We should realize that and reassess our positions. It may be true that all the cards are in America's hands, but Washington refuses to deal those cards, and the Palestinian people and the Arab nation are paying the price.

Hence, Baker's four trips and all the meetings and talks are not only a waste of Arab time. Even more than that, they represent disdain for Arab minds and scorn for the Arab nation's ability to achieve its rights. It is not possible to put an end to U.S. indifference and Israeli schemes to Judaize the West Bank and Gaza Strip except by boosting Arab efforts.

Our nation, and especially the Palestinian people, should stop deceiving themselves that solutions for the Palestinian problem might come from Washington. The dangers are growing rapidly. There must be effective Arab solidarity; a unified Arab stance must be drawn up. The Arabs have to mobilize their potential and capabilities and reassess their calculations. That is the only way to foil all the schemes that threaten the Arab nation and its existence. That must constitute the core of Arab strategy. When will this nation wake up from its deep sleep?

Syrian Answer to Bush Peace Initiative Pending

TA0907191991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Today, both Washington and Jerusalem received information that Syria is evidently sending its reply to the U.S. peace initiative, after a prolonged delay. It has been learned that the reply is designed to enable the Americans to pursue their peace initiative in the Middle East. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

The information obtained tonight asserts that President al-Asad's letter is either about to leave or has already left for Washington. The information further states that in their reply, the Syrians made an effort not to disappoint the Americans and not to prevent the continuation of the process. It should be stressed that this is merely preliminary information—both with regard to the reply's dispatch and to its content. Some earlier reports to this effect have been proved false.

Israel has responded to President Bush's peace initiative, as has Jordan. The Syrian reply is the only one awaited by all for the past six weeks or so. Senior Israeli sources said tonight that the Americans are determined to pursue their attempts to stage a meeting of Middle East leaders and to bring them to the negotiating table, despite the disparity of positions. If the Syrian reply does indeed create a chance for those hopes to materialize, another shuttle tour by the U.S. secretary of state may be already on the agenda. Another possibility is a new American initiative to accelerate the peace processes.

Israel, for its part, will suggest that the United States should not despair, even if the Syrians cannot be brought to the negotiating table. In that case, the Americans will be asked at least to effect an arrangement between Israel and Jordan and the Palestinians.

Ne'eman on Israel in 'Nuclear Weapons Club'

TA0907180391 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Interview with Professor Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure, science, and technology, by Dan Shilon; Ne'eman in Jerusalem, Shilon in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted on Iraqi nuclear potential]

[Shilon] The United States and other Western countries could ask Israel a certain question regarding its nuclear potential. They could say: You Israelis expect us to eliminate Iraq's nuclear capability, while you yourselves keep from us the truth about your own potential, if international reports are to be given credence. What would we tell them?

[Ne'eman] Why should there be a need to ask such question of Israel?

[Shilon] The question has been asked.

[Ne'eman] The answer is that there is no similarity; it is a distorted view of the situation. For instance, there was a demand for a signature on the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Saddam Husayn signed it; we did not. Saddam Husayn, who signed, now admits to having manufactured such weapons. What significance, then, does that signature have? It is interesting: Who is the aggressor, and who the responsible country that does not launch acts of aggression against its neighbors? Whatever Israel's situation, it has always said it would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East—although there have been allegations that the situation is vague.

We have adhered to that line, and although we have a certain potential from the point of view of science and research, we never did join the nuclear club, the nuclear weapons club. We did not—although we already had that know-how, that scientific data—when the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War occurred or when other tough situations arose. Israel found itself in difficult situations, but it resisted the temptation. It may have had the capability to continue the development and to engage further in that activity, but it refrained from doing so.

Therefore, anyone coming out with accusations against us is being frivolous; he is simply seeking a way to elude responsibility for the genuine threats. The genuine threats are Saddam Husayn and al-Qadhdhafi, who does not conceal his desire for nuclear weapons and who traveled to China for that purpose. A book by Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal says that al-Qadhdhafi went to China and offered a billion dollars for two bombs.

[Shilon] We are forced to conclude at this point. I thank you very much, Minister Yuval Ne'eman. With your permission, I will just repeat one phrase from your last remarks, which is that Israel has not entered the sphere of nuclear weapons. Thank you very much for coming to our Jerusalem studio.

EC's Matutes Arrives To Discuss Representative

TA1007074591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Abel Matutes, EC commissioner in charge of relations with Mediterranean countries, arrived in Israel last night. Matutes will try to finalize the agreement on stationing an EC representative in the territories. Here is our political correspondent Natan Gutman's report:

Two main issues bring Abel Matutes to Israel: He wants to finalize the agreement on placing an EC representative in the territories, and he wishes to continue discussing Israel's involvement in Europe. Several weeks ago, Foreign Minister David Levi met with his EC counterparts and agreed in principle that a representative to the territories be appointed. This representative's duty will be to supervise the transfer of some $80 million worth of aid allocated by the EC for the Palestinians in the territories.

Israel's Government has approved the agreement, and the details of the agreement need to be worked out now. The EC representative will shuttle between Jerusalem and Brussels, and his role will be defined as supervising humanitarian aid in the territories.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 10 July carries a report by Hemi Shalev on page two which adds that "Israel's representative to the EC, Avi Primor, recently refused to accept a paper the EC Commission sent him concerning its representative in the territories. Primor claimed that the paper completely contradicts the agreements made with Foreign Minister David Levi on the issue."

[Shalev goes on to say that "sources in Jerusalem have said that the paper (formally termed as a non-paper [last word in English]) which Primor rejected, says that the EC representative will be stationed in Jerusalem under the title of "EC representative to the occupied territories." In the agreement Levi made with the EC troika, it has been agreed that the representative will permanently reside in Brussels, that he will arrive in Israel for occasional work tours, and that he will have no political status in Israel or in the territories.

["Senior Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday that the EC has accepted Israel's position on the issue, that the paper does not represent the ministers' agreement, and that the discussions with Matutes will be held along the lines of the agreement with Levi. The sources said that the EC officials have tried to 'fix' their ministers' resolution."]

The other issue on Matutes' agenda, Israel's incorporation into EC economic activity with a status similar to EFTA [European Free Trade Association] countries, still has a long way to go before it is implemented. Israel, however, is optimistic, and believes that during Matutes' talks and meeting in Israel, and following talks between experts of both sides, it will be possible to progress in granting Israel a preferred economic status in the EC.

While in Israel, Abel Matutes will meet the prime minister and the foreign and defense ministers; discuss economic issues with Ministers Moda'i and Nisim; and confer with Knesset Member Shim'on Peres and with a delegation of Palestinian representatives from the territories.

Army Criticizes Amnesty International Report

TA1007081091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jul 91 p A2

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Official IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources said last night: "The Amnesty International report again demonstrates the one-sided description typical of that organization's reports on everything related to the territories. This imbalance is manifested,

among other things, in the report's attempt to highlight the steps the IDF has taken in the territories to enforce law and order, while paying scant attention to the acts of violence perpetrated by the Palestinian locals against the IDF and civilians. The report also minimizes the fact that most of the people who had been killed during the reporting period were eliminated in acts of brutality carried out by Palestinians against their own brethren. The report totally ignores the fact that the IDF operations in the territories are subjected to constant supervision by the Supreme Court, which has often endorsed the legality of the measures."

Transport Minister on Agreements With UK

TA0707105491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 91 p A7

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Excerpt] Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav agreed with his British counterpart, Malcolm Rifkind, that Britain and Israel will cooperate on security matters relating to civil aviation. Qatzav said that this cooperation will span the fields of intelligence, research, and data exchanges. Qatzav has completed a three day visit to Britain.

The transportation minister added that agreement had been reached to work toward joint recognition of aircraft registration by both countries. Qatzav noted that such recognition would afford greater freedom to Israeli companies making aviation products, such as Israel Aircraft Industries, and facilitate the sale of their products in Britain.

Qatzav said that Britain had agreed to help Israel gain admission to the European Civil Aviation Organization—ECAC. He reported that the British minister had expressed support in principle for the Israeli request; however, Rifkind had pointed out that Israel's inclusion would necessitate a change of the organization's charter, which would require the agreement of all member countries. Rifkind said that Britain would look into the members' readiness to take this step. [passage omitted]

Reservations on UN Antitorture Covenant

TA1007103291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The State of Israel will apparently join a UN-international covenant against torture. The ratification of this covenant, though, will include several reservations concerning the clauses giving a UN team of experts authority to investigate. Justice Minister Dan Meridor has sent a memorandum on this covenant to the members of the Knesset. The police affairs and defense ministries have already stated their approval of the ratification of the covenant. Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports:

The State of Israel will sign the covenant, made within the framework of the United Nations, but will introduce reservations to several of its clauses: It will introduce reservations concerning the authority of a UN team of experts to initiate investigations of tortures. Israel will also express reservations concerning the authority of the International Court at The Hague to nominate an arbitrator when disagreements between countries arise concerning the torture of detainees. Israel is also not willing to authorize the team of experts to investigate complaints by states or by individuals who claim they have been tortured.

At the same time, Israel pledges to file a report to the committee about the implementation of the covenant as soon as after the first year following its ratification, and then every four years, as required. [passage omitted]

[In a related interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Arye Golan on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 10 July, following this report, Meridor says "I would not like to comment on the annual report of Amnesty International, because I have not read it yet. As is our practice, we will examine every complaint." Concerning the reservations on the issue of the UN investigating team, Meridor says: "We are not the only ones who express such reservations; many other countries do the same. I can explain that: I do not believe that our listeners in Israel need to learn that the United Nations is not exactly a court of justice. It is a political organization."

[Asked about administrative detentions, mentioned in the Amnesty report, Meridor says: "We are fighting terrorism." He adds: "We cannot recite books on human rights and be destroyed as a society and a state in the process. Our aim is to maintain the right balance. There is no doubt that there is conflict there. We do not favor administrative detentions," and "we use this, not as a desired means, but rather as one that cannot be avoided. Recently, there has been a significant drop in the number of administrative detentions, and I believe this trend will continue. In the future as well, we will try to use as few administrative detentions as possible, when we have other legal means."]

Clashes, Protests Reported in Nablus, Gaza

TA0707102691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 91 p A6

[Report by Yizhar Be'er, Eytan Rabin, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Violent clashes took place in Nabulus over the weekend between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops and Palestinians. On Friday, firebombs were thrown at a car carrying Civil Administration tax collectors and an Army vehicle in the center of town. The IDF closed the area following the incident and made arrests.

At the same time, about 100 Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian [PFLP] activists held a procession in the town's casbah. The activists shouted slogans

calling for a return to armed struggle. Following the procession, riots erupted in the town and the IDF had to employ large quantities of tear gas. Palestinian sources claimed that soldiers shattered the windshields of 15 local cars parked on the side of the road.

In the course of searches conducted by the security forces in five mosques in Nabulus over the weekend, PLO leaflets and flags were discovered, as well as large quantities of cold steel weapons, including axes, knives, and clubs; these weapons apparently served the town's masked activists.

Over 150 women yesterday morning marched in protest down Faysal Street in the center of Nabulus to the town's Red Cross offices. There, they held a sit-down demonstration in sympathy with the security detainees now waging a hunger strike in Israeli prisons. [passage omitted]

The military court in Janin last weekend gave 17-year-old Ahmad al-Nasir of Janin two life sentences and an additional 20 years in prison after convicting him of murdering local Arab residents and violently attacking others. Al-Nasir belonged to the Red Eagle gang affiliated with the PFLP.

Mazhin Abu-Suway, 23, from Artas, near Bethlehem, was shot to death on 5 July by a group of masked men; his friend, Muhammad Damsa, was injured. Military sources reported that an IDF contingent summoned to the scene by villagers found the body and turned it over for an autopsy at the Abu-Kabir Forensic Institute. In response to a question, Army sources said no troops had been in the area at the time of the shooting. [passage omitted]

A general strike was observed on 6 July in Gaza city according to an Islamic Jihad leaflet marking 44 months to the intifadah. The strike was only partially observed in other cities in the Strip.

Four Gaza Strip residents were injured in weekend clashes with IDF troops. Palestinian sources reported that the clashes were mainly in the Khan Yunus, Rafah, and Jabalyah refugee camps and the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood.

Official military sources reported that security forces partially destroyed Ramadan Yusuf Ahmad Yazuri's house in Rafah. Yazuri is suspected of establishing Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] cells in Rafah during 1990, appointing leaders, and securing funds for their activities. One of the squads he established operated as the organization's strike force and, acting on his instructions, was responsible for four murders, other violent attacks, and the attempted murders of Rafah residents suspected of cooperating with the authorities.

Last week marked an increase in the number of Gaza Strip workers leaving for jobs in Israel. In the coming month it is estimated that approximately 108,000 Palestinians, registered by the labor exchanges and bearing exit cards, will leave for Israel.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English in a page 10 report by Jon Immanuel adds that "a Hamas leaflet distributed throughout the Gaza Strip and the West Bank by the Islamic fundamentalist organization over the weekend makes a polite gesture in the direction of the PLO.

"It welcomed a call by Palestine National Council [PNC] chairman 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih for Hamas participation in committee meeting to prepare the next session of the PNC, the parliament in exile of the PLO."]

Groups Assume Responsibility for Attacks in Gaza

TA0907185491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] today assumed responsibility for yesterday's assassination attempt against Amnon Yahalomi at the Morag junction in the Gaza Strip. Yesterday, George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] assumed responsibility for the previous attack at the same junction the day before. Our correspondent Gil Yerushalmi reports:

It is possible that the two recent attacks at the Morag junction mark a gathering of momentum of two phenomena that did not exist in the early days of the intifadah. The fact that the DFLP and the PFLP assumed responsibility for the attacks is a deviation from the rule, observed in previous stages of the intifadah, not to assume responsibility for such attacks, most of which did not include the use of firearms.

In recent months, terrorist organizations have gradually assumed responsibility for an increasing number of terror attacks, especially when they succeeded. That was the case when the soldier Guy Friedman was killed in December 1990 when a bomb exploded in Bethlehem. Then, two organizations assumed responsibility: Fatah's Force-17 and the Islamic Jihad.

The number of attacks with firearms during the intifadah is on the rise, whether responsibility for them is assumed by some terrorist group or not. The attacks at the Morag junction correspond with this tendency of abandoning cold steel weapons, the weapon of the weak, in favor of firearms. This indicates a frustration, which is followed by a blurring of the line—maintained in the past—between the two faces of the Palestinian struggle: the popular uprising by the residents of the territories under Israeli control, which is gradually weakening, and the armed struggle against the State of Israel, the official struggle, carried out by armed terrorists infiltrating Israel from outside its territory. If the differences continue to disappear, there could be an exacerbation of the intifadah.

Lebanese Soldiers Reported Wounded in Jazzin

TA0907154391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] A Hizballah group attacked from the west a Lebanese Army unit permanently stationed in Jazzin under the command of General Antoine Lahd. Nine Lebanese Army soldiers were wounded and evacuated to Beirut.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that South Lebanese Army guns and tanks fired at the village of Jba', north of the security zone.

Commentary on Al-Asad's 'Designs' on Lebanon

TA0807104091 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Jul 91 p A18

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The Heavy and Medium-Caliber Weapons"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At the beginning of his career, 'Arafat enjoyed the support of Syrian Intelligence, but every time he showed signs of insubordination, the Syrians reminded him of his dependence: first, by a 40-day incarceration in the Damascus prison, and later by a forcible expulsion from Tripoli. In recent days, they have been meticulously transferring the Palestinians' heavy weapons to Syrian-controlled territory, in order to stress that the PLO's moves require prior approval from Damascus. The Hizballah bands, which were responsible for the latest clashes with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army], have not been disarmed.

At present, al-Asad is taking great pains to avoid arousing suspicions in Israel and the United States with regard to his long-range designs, because he would like to use the argument that the Lebanese Army has disarmed the PLO organizations in asking the United States to exert pressure toward the disarmament of the SLA—that is, the elimination of the security zone. Al-Asad now wants the United States to forget the agreement it mediated in 1983 for the withdrawal of all foreign armies, including the Syrian, from Lebanese territory, while allowing Israel to retain land, sea, and air control over terrorist activities in the border zone, and to adhere to the al-Ta'if agreement which bans foreign militias from Lebanon but does not prevent the Syrian Army from settling down there.

Although the removal of the heavy weapons will prevent the terrorists from shelling Israel, it will not obstruct operations against Israeli border towns. Having obtained the transfer of the heavy and medium-caliber weapons to al-Biqa', which is also the Lebanese establishment's drug reservoir, the Syrian ruler will be able to make use of them any time he decides to provoke and harass Israel. The Americans are ready to repay the Syrians with this Lebanese currency, operating under the illusion that this largess will ensure a positive Syrian answer on the peace process. The opposite is true: If al-Asad's plan for Lebanon succeeds, there will be no need for him to exert himself to attain a dialogue with Israel. The elimination of the security zone is liable to supply him with a tool with which he will be able to constantly harass Israel.

In an exchange of messages with the Lebanese president, Israel pointed out that while it does not interfere in Lebanon's domestic affairs, it reserves the right to prevent the formation of terrorist squads against Israel. Israel is under no obligation to explain this to the United States, because in signing the Israeli-Lebanese accord in 1983, Washington gave its consent to this principle. The same answer should be given to the United States today.

Arens, Baraq on Rise in 'Terrorist' Activity

TA0907170091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Report by Karmela Menashe from a Golani Brigade exercise on the Golan Heights]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of the General Staff, believes that it is Syria's responsibility to see that terrorist acts or attacks on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] posts are not carried out from its territory. Gen. Baraq said that Syria has managed to do that for years, and we hope that it will continue to do so. Syria has significant military might, and until the recent incident on Mt. Hermon, our border was quiet, Baraq said. At the same time, he said, the IDF is prepared for any eventuality, while expecting the Syrians to keep the peace.

Referring to the recent events in the territories, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that we are witnessing too many incidents in which firearms are being used.

[Begin recording] [Arens] I believe there is an effort here to create incidents with the use of firearms. I have no doubt about that.

[Menashe] Do you believe the Arab residents are attempting to ignite the intifadah anew?

[Arens] I do not know that the use of firearms has the full support of the entire Arab population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; my feeling is that it does not. At the same time, the existence of a hard core, willing to use firearms, is enough to create a grave danger for us.

[Menashe] Will the IDF change its policy in the territories?

[Arens] We will use all the measures we deem suitable for the situation. [end recording]

Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said that the intifadah is constantly changing shape. He said that there has been a certain rise in terrorist activity and that we will seek ways to deal with such developments and adapt our operations to the changes as we see them. Eventually, Gen. Baraq said, the defense forces will capture those who carried out the two recent attacks at the Morag junction, which he believes were carried out by two separate squads.

Kibbutz Resolution Upholds Sovereignty in Golan

TA07070691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Last night, the United Kibbutz Movement [UKM] iterated its political stands in a series of resolutions representing mainstream views. The left-wing positions that have recently characterized the UKM did not feature in the resolutions. After the debates, some participants defined the outcome as a turnabout and mellowing. Our correspondent Shula Schmerling reports from the UKM convention at Kfar Haruv in the Golan Heights:

A year ago, the UKM held a political convention in Kefar Blum in the Galilee. Its outcome amazed observers. An overwhelming majority of delegates expressed readiness to give up the Golan Heights for a peace arrangement.

The resolutions adopted last night state: In future negotiations on a permanent arrangement, Israel will insist on its sovereignty in the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

A year of activity has yielded the expected results: The reservations of the UKM's dovish left wing were removed even before the vote, eliminating possible causes for a rift in the movement. The UKM has returned to the bosom of broad consensus by saying aye to concessions and an arrangement with the Palestinians. A self-definition for the latter and negotiations with the PLO were not discussed. This was explained in Kfar Haruv last night by the UKM's resolve to regain its place as the leading factor both in the Alignment and outside, mainly in anticipation of the upcoming party convention and personal race between potential party leaders.

Poll Reflects Support for Likud Camp, Labor

TA07071091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Jul 91 p 2

[Poll by Hanokh and Rafi Smith]

[Text] Support for the Likud and the other right-wing parties has increased at the expense of the left since the 1988 Knesset elections, according to a recent public opinion poll.

In addition, a majority of the respondents, representing a cross-section of the adult Jewish population, voiced support for changing the electoral system.

In the nationwide poll taken between June 23 and June 30, 45.5 percent of the 1,100 respondents said they would vote for the Likud and its satellites if new elections were held now, with 37.5 percent favoring Labor and the left.

In 1988, the Likud and the right pulled in 41.5 percent of the vote, and the left-wing parties drew 40 percent of the vote. A poll in November showed the right enjoying 44.5 percent support, against 33.5 percent for the left; another in May found them with 44.5 percent and 36 percent, respectively.

Since November 1990, there has been growing support for the two major parties at the expense of their satellites, but the smaller parties enjoy more support than in the last election.

On the right, the growth of support for Tzomet is conspicious. On the left, the Citizens Rights Movement gained most. There was some reduction of support in the religious-haredi [utraorthodox] bloc.

The support for the right-wing bloc increased by about 3 percent compared with the last election; support for the left was down.

In the poll's other findings:

—71 percent of the respondents said they favored the proposed law for the direct election of the prime minister, and 11 percent said they opposed it; 11 percent were undecided and 7 percent had no opinion.

Among supporters of all but the haredi parties a majority expressed support for the bill.

—55 percent of those questioned said they considered Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz's criticism of kibbutzim unacceptable. Another 9 percent found Peretz's charge that kibbutzim were turning new immigrants away from religion "not quite acceptable." Ten percent each said they identified with his comments, did not identify but found them acceptable, or did not take sides on the issue.

A high percentage of haredi supporters agree with his accusations and identify with them.

	1988 Elections	Nov. 1990	May 1991	June 1991
	[in percentages]			
Likud	34	29	32	34
Tehiya	3.5	5	3.5	4
Tzomet	2+	5	5	4.5
Moledet	2+	5.5	4	3
Labor	31.5	21	23	26
CRM	4.5	7	7.56	6
MAPAM	2+	2+	3	3
Shinui	2-	3.5	2.5	2.5
NRP	4	4	3.5	4
SHAS	5+	3	4	
Aguda	-	-	-	
Degel Hatora	6.5	5-	4	8
[8 is total for Degel Hatora, SHAS, Aguda]				
Other	2	2	2	1
Undecided	-	8	6.5	4

[Key to abbreviations in table: CRM—Citizens Rights Movement; MAPAM—United Workers Party; NRP—National Religious Party; SHAS—Torah Observing Sephardim; Aguda—Agudat Yisra'el]

'Ovadya 'Eli Appointed Deputy Defense Minister

TA0707121191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Likud Knesset member 'Ovadya 'Eli was appointed deputy defense minister today. An announcement to this effect will be delivered to the Knesset soon. The appointment was endorsed in today's cabinet session.

Ora Namir Announces Candidacy for Labor Party

TA0507045691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Labor Party Knesset Member Ora Namir has announced her candidacy for leadership of the party. Namir, head of the Labor Knesset and Social Affairs Committee, announced her decision late yesterday. Her first competition will come in November, when the party's Central Committee meets, a year before the next national election. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit of PRC's Li Peng to Amman

Wu Jianmin Comments on Talks

JN0707075391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Wu Jianmin, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, has said that His Majesty King Husayn's talks with Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng dealt with several issues, foremost being the new world order, the Palestine question, the situation in the Gulf, the disarming of mass-destruction weapons in the Middle East, and bilateral relations.

In a press conference he held last night, Jianmin added that during the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn stressed that the new world order must adopt the principles of justice and must not use a double standard or be biased in dealing with international issues, especially since the new world order comes at a time when the world is witnessing an imbalance in international powers. He said that during the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn called on China in its capacity as a permanent UN member to play an effective role in crystallizing a new world order that guarantees justice and equality for all.

He added that during the talks, the Chinese side stressed its full support for His Majesty King Husayn's views on the new world order. He pointed out that his country wants the new world order to establish peaceful coexistence between all nations, and guarantees equal opportunities, mutual benefit, nonintervention in domestic affairs of other countries, and justice and equality for all. Moreover, his country seeks to guarantee that no country imposes its will on another.

On disarmament in the Middle East, Jianmin said that His Majesty King Husayn stressed Jordan's support for removing mass destruction weapons in the Middle East, which must encompass all regional states, be implemented on all countries, and guarantee genuine removal of mass-destruction weapons from the region and not contribute to increasing one side's weapons over the other. He said that the Chinese side stressed its full support for His Majesty King Husayn's views on this issue.

On the Palestine question, Jianmin said that his country believes in the need to resolve the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful means based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which guarantee full Israeli withdrawal from the Arab occupied territories, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and Israel's right to peace and security. He said that his country believes that the best possible means to attain a just and comprehensive peace is through an international peace conference under UN auspices, to be attended by the five UN permanent members.

Responding to a question about his country's position on imposing sanctions against Israel to force it to comply with international legitimacy, he said that his country believes that the international community is capable of influencing Israel to implement UN resolutions.

Responding to a question on the U.S. request to China not to sell weapons to Middle Eastern countries at a time when the United States is doubling its weapons sale to Israel, he said he could not comment on this issue, especially since a conference for countries exporting weapons to the Middle East will be held soon to discuss this issue. He said that China's weapons sale to the Middle East is a tiny portion, and that the weapons sold are of a defensive nature. Moreover, he noted that his country does not aim to disrupt the military balance in the Middle East through its weapons sales.

Jianmin noted that the Chinese prime minister extended an invitation on behalf of the Chinese president to His Majesty King Husayn to visit China. His majesty accepted the invitation. The date of the visit will be fixed at the appropriate time.

Chinese Mideast Peace Role Viewed

JN0807054691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jul 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Friendly China Is Qualified To Play an Effective Role in Resolving the Conflict in the Region"]

[Text] The visit to Jordan by Li Peng, prime minister of the friendly People's Republic of China, acquires great and special significance due to its important and appropriate timing as the efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict are stalemated and about to be fully paralyzed. The U.S. role is also characterized by relaxation, and indifference and aggressive Israeli intentions against the Arab nation are looming on the horizon. Moreover, sisterly Iraq is being exposed to U.S. threats to resume the 30-state aggression and destroy the remaining economic, civilian, scientific, and cultural installations. This affirms that security and peace in the region are threatened and that new conflicts and wars might erupt at any time, especially since the U.S. Administration is still providing Israel with destructive weapons and refuses to employ any pressures that force it to respect the international legitimacy.

It is known that Israel is still placing obstacles before any peace initiative in the region, including the U.S. initiative itself.

This necessarily means that the U.S. stance in dealing with the regional and international issues is subjected to exposed double standards. The U.S. Administration threatens to destroy Iraqi weapons at a time when it is supplying Israel with the most sophisticated planes and missiles!! This raises doubts and suspicions about its desire to set up a new just world order.

It is clear that these facts are very well known to the Chinese friends, and this led Jordan's great guest Mr. Li Peng to emphasize the principle of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and equality among the world nations,

regardless of strength and wealth, so that this principle will be the essence of the new world order. He also stressed the need to respect the international legitimacy resolutions with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to dissuade Israel from clinging to the status quo.

We believe that in view of its big international weight, China is qualified to play an effective role in activating the efforts toward a just peace in the region. This makes its Arab friends wager on its participation, along with the other influential big powers, in forcing Israel to respect the international legitimacy resolutions and the principle of "land for peace" in a bid to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive peaceful settlement in the region.

The Arabs are also betting on friendly China to tirelessly and sincerely work for lifting the economic siege on Iraq and halting the U.S. threats against it.

Call for Chinese Area Support

JN0707122191 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 7 Jul 91 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Would the Chinese Position Develop Into Effective Performance?"]

[Text] The Chinese prime minister's tour of the region and his current visit to Jordan entail a clear call for an international peace conference under UN auspices, since this is the best means for implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 based on exchanging land for peace and recognizing the Palestinian people's national rights. This tour and visit also entail a clear call for controlling armaments in the region on a fair and balanced basis and with effective supervision, and must include the disarming of mass destruction weapons. In light of these two calls, we can deduce that Beijing wants to revive the idea of an international conference. Israel had rejected this idea, and instead proposed a regional conference, which would lack authority and end up as nothing more than a reception in which the United Nations did not participate!! Needless to say, the United States is being led by the Israeli idea, something which became apparent through Baker's shuttle tours in the region. Hence, renewing the call for an international conference is considered a reservation on the regional conference in the form Israel requires, and a reservation on the blind U.S. support for it.

On the other hand, it is noted that the call to control armaments in a fair and effective manner and to remove mass destruction weapons in the region are considered a reservation on the U.S. behavior represented in storing advanced weapons in Israel, and on the U.S. strategy based on guaranteeing Israel's qualitiative superiority in the region and turning a blind eye to its mass destruction weapons. At any rate, the Chinese reservation in both cases deserves interest and support, not to mention the fact that it enjoys the backing of Arabs and all peace-loving people in the world. This, however, does not prevent us from wondering whether Beijing intends to develop and translate its reservation into a performance that will contribute to holding an international conference and curb Israel's military superiority in the region, especially since China has the right of veto like the rest of the UN Security Council permanent members.

Beijing alone can respond to this. Until it does so, we cannot but express our support for the Chinese prime minister's two calls, and express strong hope that the cordial relations between Amman and Beijing achieve more progress in all domains.

King Husayn Meets UN Special Envoy Brunner

JN0907153191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] At noon today, His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court Edouard Brunner, the special envoy of the UN secretary general. His majesty briefed him on the latest developments in the peace efforts and the peace prospects, and on the UN role in implementing its resolutions on the Palestine question and the Middle East crisis. They exchanged views on matters related to the efforts for seeking a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the political adviser to his majesty the king, Jordan's permanent envoy to the United Nations, and the delegation accompanying Brunner.

It is worthy to note that Paragraph 3 of UN Resolution 242 requires the UN secretary general to dispatch a personal envoy to hold the necessary contacts with the concerned countries in order to encourage the implementation of this resolution and reach the aspired peaceful settlement.

His Majesty King Husayn today at noon also received at the Royal Hashemite Court Guenter Eser, director general of the International Air Transport Association, IATA, who is currently visiting Jordan.

Brunner Meets Premier, Minister

JN0907123391 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Tahir al-Masri received at his office today Mr. Edouard Brunner, the special envoy in the Middle East for the United Nations secretary general. Discussions during the meeting dealt with the mission of the envoy in the region. The premier welcomed Mr. Brunner, saying Jordan believes in the effective role the UN could play to establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy, particularly the UN Security Council's resolutions on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Mr. al-Masri briefed the UN official on Jordan's position vis-a-vis current peace efforts. He emphasized the necessity of the UN role in these efforts, pointing out to the guarantee it will give in implementing international legality.

Earlier today, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur met with Mr. Brunner at the Foreign Ministry. During the meeting, the two exchanged views on the developments in the Middle East, the current efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian question, and the UN role in these efforts. Following the meeting, Mr. Brunner spoke to reporters.

[Begin recording] [Brunner] Well, for the time being, you know it is my first trip to the region since I have been appointed as a special representative of the secretary general of the United Nations, and I am now meeting with all the leaders of all of the countries of the region. I started these last two days in Israel and coming here to Jordan and going on to Egypt, Syria, Lebanon. I will make a report to the secretary general after I made this tour.

On the other side, as you know, there is another process going on initialed by the United States of America by Mr. Baker to which all the countries of the region have declared the interest in it, and I do not want to interfere in this process. I hope that the process might succeed. But I am here to remind everybody that the UN is at the disposal of all the parties to find solution to the crisis and to the situation that exists in this part of the world on the basis of the Security Council resolutions. And generally speaking, I am in favor of everything that goes in the direction of peace, of negotiations. We cannot get peace without negotiating and without having face-to-face between people who have different opinions. The problem, I think now, is the question of how this face-to-face is going to be organized and who is going to participate in this face-to-face.

You know that some of the obstacles now are the obstacles of the participation of the Palestinian delegation and how it would be composed, on which the Israelis have certain ideas, and some other obstacles, precisely the UN participation in such a conference which they refuse, as we have said, I think.

[Reporter] Mr. Brunner, when you say I do not want to interfere in this peace process, you are talking about the specific task of yours at this time or about the United Nations' as a whole role?

[Brunner] I am speaking of what Mr. Baker is trying to do now. This is what the peace process is.

[Reporter] And you are following up the United Nations' [as heard] initiative, peace initiative, and not the United Nations' role to solve the peace process or to stimulate it.

[Brunner] What I am saying is that I do not want to interfere in Mr. Baker's initiative.

[Reporter] How do you view Jordan's role in this process?

[Brunner] Well, I think that Jordan, as one of the main countries in this region, has a very important role to play, and I am sure that your government, your authorities, are ready to play this role, and up to now, it has been a constructive role. [end recording]

Al-Nusur Thanks UN for Role in Kuwait Trials

JN0707181791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur has sent a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressing gratitude and appreciation for the latter's positive efforts which led to the commute of death sentences passed on a number of Jordanians in Kuwait to life imprisonment. Jordan considers this a step in the desired direction, said the memorandum. The minister expressed the belief that the sentences against Jordanians in Kuwait are not commensurate with the charges made against them.

Agreement Signed To Open IATA Office in Amman

JN0907135991 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Excerpt] In Amman an agreement was signed at the Ministry of Transport and Communications today to establish an office of the International Air Transport Association, IATA, in Jordan. Signing the agreement were Deputy Premier and Minister of Transport and Communications Mr. 'Ali al-Suhaymat and IATA's director general. [passage omitted]

CBJ Governor on Credit-Commerce Bank Closure

JN0607190191 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 6 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Amman 6 Jul (PETRA)—The governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has made the following statement:

The CBJ has observed the recent developments related to the case of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, especially the decision by the Monetary Institute in Luxembourg, site of the bank's main headquarters, ordering the bank and all its branches throughout the world to stop payments.

The CBJ also took note of the instructions given from Luxembourg and the regional administrative offices in Abu Dhabi to the bank's branches in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, stressing that payments must be stopped immediately and branches closed in Jordan until further notice.

Since closing the branches of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in Jordan or allowing them to continue to operate under circumstances of non-payment is subject to the provisions and conditions of Jordan's Banking Law, as well as to the original terms for licensing the bank, the CBJ has decided, in accordance with its provisions and the Banking Law, to close down the branches of the Kingdom for three days only, and to

appoint an administrative and supervisory committee to assume the operation of the bank after the three days are up.

The CBJ also decided to adopt all the necessary measures to protect the bank's depositors in Jordan, given that the CBJ took sufficient precautionary measures three months ago to transfer all deposits in foreign currencies from the branches of the bank to the CBJ. [passage omitted]

Al-Masri Comments on New Government Program

JN2906083091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Jun 91 p 15

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri has met with the chief editors of the Jordanian newspapers. The atmosphere at the meeting was frank, positive, and constructive. Mr. al-Masri spoke about the various issues pertaining to the current phase of the national march, and the issues dealing with how to enhance the democratic process and national unity. Al-Masri explained his government's program which is based on the main points that were contained in the letter of designation, thus putting an end to all rumors and doubts, and elucidating the facts about Jordan's policy on the domestic, Arab, and international level to the local, Arab, and international public opinion.

At the outset of the meeting, the prime minister was careful to emphasize the importance of such meetings, and the role of the press in conveying facts and informing the public in a free, democratic, and objective manner. He said: I welcome you as dear brothers, with whom I have had the pleasure to deal over the years as a deputy and minister. I believe it is appropriate, and Information Minister Dr. Khalid al-Karai affirms this, that we maintain contacts. This government is new. We thought that the first image of this government should be conveyed through the national press. This is the first meeting and it will not be the last. Our meetings will continue and will be held from time to time.

Al-Masri said: We are eager in this government to carry out dialogue and hold discussions, and inform the press about all events and developments so that we may, together, discuss specific issues which have a direct bearing on our people's interests and concerns. We are experiencing the stage of the enhancement of democratic life. The press has become a national institution that is constantly developing and keeping in line with the democratic changes. The press is the mirror of the people and the institution that directs the people. The State, particularly the executive branch should deal with the fourth estate with openness and understanding. This meeting we are now holding is within this framework, and this is a firm and lasting stand. The Jordanian press is a free and responsible press. It has the homeland's interests at heart. The more we put it in the picture of what is taking place, the better it can convey it in an objective manner. This is what we believe and by which we will abide.

Tahir al-Masri reaffirmed that the purpose of this meeting is to entrench a course of action vis-a-vis the press that is predicated on dialogue and the exchange of viewpoints. He said that his government has decided to submit its policy statement to the House of Representatives, although the Constitution gives it the right to postpone this. He said: We are of the opinion that we should proceed along a sound course, depend on the legislative branch, and abide by the spirit of the Constitution. If the government wants to perform its duties, it should enjoy the confidence of the House of Representatives. It is impermissible for it to work four or five months without any vote of confidence, irrespective of the circumstances or the perils. We should proceed guided by our beliefs and principles to pass laws, exercise our responsibilities, and tackle the issues and problems on the basis of a sound democratic aproach.

Al-Masri went on to say: During the 'Id holidays, there were many rumors and much talk about the government, why it was formed and its tasks. I want to put you in the picture of how this government was formed. From the very first moment that His Majesty King Husayn tasked me with the formation of the government, I was bent on forming a comprehensive coalition government. As a deputy, I contacted the speaker of the House of Representatives and began my contacts with the Islamic bloc. I met its members for consultations and asked them to participate in the government. I affirmed to them that my wish to have the Islamic bloc participate in the government was not a tactical move but a genuine one. I proposed to them the same number of portfolios they had in the previous government. However, in view of the heated debate that took place in Jordanian society, I asked them to participate but without giving them the portfolio of the Ministry of Education. They sent me their negative reply that same night although, we had agreed that they would give their reply the next day. I then resumed contacts with all the blocs. The reason I did not contact the independent deputies is that one cannot contact 80 deputies. Thus, the Muslim Brothers did not participate in the government. We view this as a deficiency. However, all the other parliamentary blocs participated in the government.

Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri continued: As the formation of the government coincided with the 'Id al-Adha holiday, rumors were started and some regrettable talk and pronouncements were made. The government was wronged by claims that it would capitulate, be a government of negotiations, and so forth. I would like to express regret for what we have heard.

I would like to emphasize that we will not sell out or give up any right. Our national and pan-Arab policy and approach have not changed. This is clear in both the royal letter of designation and our declared policies. We did not yield to others in the past, and we will not in the future. We will continue to adopt a brave and honorable position proceeding from the Jordanian pride. This policy is identical to that of the previous government concerning the Palestine question and the principles of a

peaceful settlement. Why, then, this clamor and fabrication? We—both country and leadership—are seeking an honorable solution to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict through the application of international legitimacy. We consider the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. When we talk about the Palestine question, the PLO will be responsible; how can Jordan be accused overnight of adopting a capitulatory solution?

I would like to say that only two days before the rumors were started, the royal designation letter was published. It was clear and explicit in all the issues it contained. It stressed that the formation of this government was meant to address domestic issues, especially that we stand at the threshold of a very important phase in our country's history. The institutionalized democratic system must be built in all national activities, the stage must be correctly prepared for political action and for the launching of parties. This, of course, does not mean lack of interest in foreign policy. We are fully committed to the Palestine question, and I believe that repeating our explicit, unequivocal, and known position on this question will add nothing new.

The prime minister explained that 75 percent of the royal letter of designation centered on national, domestic issues. We hope that all citizens will realize the leadership's interests in people's affairs. We have many national agendas and plenty of things to start addressing after we win the confidence of the people's representatives. We pray God to grant us success and enable us to deal correctly with all institutions in our country.

Al-Masri pointed out that the government has already started discussing draft laws on parties and on the press and publication to present them to the parliament. He said that the latter draft law will be discussed with the press, and that this has already started. We believe, he said, that any legislation of concern to a certain category of the public must be formulated in participation with the concerned parties; we may have different opinions, but the participation is necessary.

The prime minister said: We are going through a difficult and dangerous stage, and participation is a fundamental factor. We are all—citizens and officials—in one boat which we should protect and safeguard. We must think this way and deal with each other in this manner.

The prime minister reviewed the challenges facing Jordan and said many issues must be tackled. He mentioned the issue of water, saying the danger had reached the red line. There are also the issues of unemployment and medical services. The financial situation, he added, does not allow implementing projects to solve these issues; we are in a difficult financial position, and it is not easy to lay down plans to modernize the state, revive the economy, and activate the economic circulation without financial resources; we must work to increase our financial resources by all means.

Al-Masri said that another important point in the government's program concerns Arab relations. The letter of designation had set for the government the basic guidelines along which it should proceed within this framework. Jordan's location and state of affairs make it dutybound to have good relations with the countries surrounding it. He said: We have lived the Gulf crisis and have emerged from it with our heads high. The stand of Jordan—leadership, people, and government—toward the Gulf crisis will be recorded not only in terms of its abidance by the national and pan-Arab principles, but also by the democratic principles and by our Arab stand that rejects foreign hegemony and interference and that seeks to work within the framework of solidarity.

We are fully convinced that democracy is the feature of this age and that it will sweep the region sooner or later. The Jordanian democratic experience has been the first and will be the model for others in the region. Our stand during the crisis and the democratic handling through it establishes the Jordanian democratic experience as positive and constructive. We are preceding our Arab brothers in this field. Current events in some countries confirm this.

These are some of the main ideas on the government's course of action and how it will tackle matters. Some parties might not be satisfied with this. They will continue to be skeptical. This is their right. Differences of opinion should be maintained within their sound framework. It is true that we may differ in opinion. However, we should not differ on what is best for the homeland. Differences of opinion are not a sign that something is wrong. They are a healthy phenomenon so long as they are within the accepted norms of dealing. This government will demonstrate that it is a national and patriotic government that has the king's support and the trust of the people, and that will support the democratic process, entrench liberties within what is accepted by customs, logic, and the law. The rights of the Jordanian individual are safeguarded and will remain so above all considerations.

AL-RA'Y chief editor Mahmud al-Kayid said that the formation of the new government has responded to the citizen's aspirations in that it came as a coalition government with young elements in it. If there has been talk and rumors about the new government, this is something natural as this always takes place when a new government is formed. There was much talk in social circles about the government's political course. Secrets cannot be concealed forever. We have been speaking about Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging land for peace for quite a long time now. From this premise, the attempts to cast doubts were not that successful. The second point I would like to make is on the many allusions that are being made about the configuration of the new government in terms of the origin of its members. This completely conflicts with the talk about national unity, and this is impermissible. One can say what he thinks about the capabilities of this or that minister, or the capabilities of the prime minister but

one cannot attack the person of this or that minister. Yesterday, we discussed this issue as journalists and how we should tackle it. We reached the conclusion that we should approach this issue with complete sincerity and patriotism. If we detect a mistake, we point it out. The government being a coalition government does not mean that it does not make mistakes and all that has been said should not dissuade the government from pursuing the objectives you have outlined. The journalists will abide by this and we will do our best to render this experiment a success, embed these rules and develop them in the Jordanian society. We are committed to implement this course as we are committed to safeguard our country.

The prime minister said: Some people have become accustomed that everything that comes from the government is bad. The reason is the absence of the element of participation. However, the situation is different now. The people do participate in the institutions, and the press, as well as the legislative branch, express their ideas, aspirations, and viewpoints. The feeling that everything that comes from the government is bad has been the result of many years of nonparticipation in government affairs. The countdown has started now. Such feelings should no longer exist and these ideas should change. Not all those who participate in government are bad. Some people who used to be described as nationalists and loyal no longer continue to be described as such once they participate in the government. This is something which should change as it is not fair. I know that this phenomenon cannot be discarded in a moment. However, I believe that we have started the countdown to get rid of it.

The prime minister said that the talk about the vote of confidence, whether the government will win it or not is healthy and is a qualitative step in democracitc discussion and in the political life in our country.

Hashim Khuraysat, chief editor of SAWT AL-SHA'B, paid tribute to the prime minister's decision to present his government's statement to the House of Representatives and wondered about the background of this decision and also on the prime minister's expectations in this regard. He added: We heard of economic reform. Domestically, we have numerous problems. Unemployment and poverty have their own serious effects. Our economic situation, the imbalances in the country, merging returnees from Kuwait into the economic cycle, the problem of the faltering public sector companies which need to be privatized, the issue of emphasizing quality rather than quantity with regard to the Armed Forces, and other issues give rise to people's questions. What is the prime minister's opinion on this?

The prime minister answered by saying that the government's decision to present its statement to the House of Representatives to win a vote of confidence based on this statement was discussed by the Council of Ministers. There was great support for the decision. This statement will be given within the legal time limit, which is 30 days after the formation of the cabinet. We opted for this irrespective of any other legal interpretations. What is important is that we are eager not to see any violation of the Constitution committed. This was the general feature of the discussion. Some ministers touched on the legal aspect of the issue tackled in Articles 52 and 54 of the Constitution. Even these ministers agreed that it is better for the government to present its statement from the political point of view and also to consecrate the government's credibility. There was an eagerness not to commit any violation of the Constitution. Likewise, there was a desire to emphasize the democratic approach and also to entrench the democratic management and course of action not only for this government, but also for future governments.

With regard to domestic economic issues, they are largely interlinked. This has been our state of affairs for several years. Whenever we tackled a problem successfully and achieved something in this regard, we found a deficiency. In light of the halt in aid and remittances, the reactivation of the national economy becomes a difficult task. We have professional graduates, who graduated in various professions, from universities and community colleges, not to mention returnees. This created a difficult economic and social situation which is not easily resolvable. We do not have the key elements needed for overcoming these problems, especially the unemployment problem. However, there are attempts to attract investment; this requires the activation of various sectors in the kingdom. Besides, Jordanian expatriates have liquidity that can be attracted. The stability which we enjoy is a factor which can help attract foreign capital to the region. And here we see Beirut returning to the scene, developing at a faster pace after acquiring more experience. As for us, we have failed to respond to the free economy pattern. There are poverty and unemployment. The national economy must be activated without undermining the social equation. Some classes should demonstrate social solidarity with the government, as the poverty issue has begun to assume perilous implications; a special committee has been formed to discuss it.

The prime minister pointed out that there are ideas which are being currently crystallized on reducing investment restrictions. This requires administrative reform. It is easy to uphold slogans, while it is difficult to put them into practice. However, once citizens understand administrative reform, once government bodies are activated, and once the deadly bureaucracy is reduced, obstacles can be overcome. He said that the citizen seeks God's assistance whenever he needs something from the government. This is justifiable, since the element of favoritism has created a vicious circle that makes it difficult for us to identify the starting point for tackling the negative phenomena in our administrative performance. However, through social and administrative equations and through a favorable response by citizens to reduce and eliminate bureaucracy, we can overcome this problem and other problems. We asked the competent ministers to formulate draft laws in this regard. We believe that local government and its organization are a

basic part of this process. The governorate should be an integral unit that exercises decentralization with regard to decisionmaking, and not only with regard to implementation. Local government is one of the ways out of these problems.

As for the emphasis on quality rather than quantity with regard to the Armed Forces, it is too early to discuss this issue. The Army Command is discussing it. There is a political orientation in this regard. This will be completed in due course.

On unemployment, the prime minister said this is a disease from which not only Jordan but the entire Third World is suffering. Europe too suffered from this problem in the seventies. Unemployment cannot be overcome without eliminating social defects. It should not be possible to have 50,000 jobless Jordanians and still have 200,000 foreign workers in the country. However, if we want to dispense with foreign labor, we will witness conflicting interests. Unemployment is spreading among white collar workers. Rectifying social defects is not the task of the government alone; it requires an educational policy and an integrated plan. Unemployment cannot be solved by the government making financial payments. Both the private and public sectors should join forces to fight the problem, and we have both short-term and medium-term ideas in this respect.

The prime minister said that martial law is another main topic at the top of the government's list of priorities. The appropriate decision will be made and the subject will be settled shortly, God willing, so that the democratic institution will remain removed from the umbrella of martial law.

He added: Although the formation of the government came during special circumstances in the country, we hope it should not appear as if directed against another group. This qualitative jump must be made calmly; we came to work with all groups, not to besiege this or that group. The homeland is for everybody, and those who mistrusted the objectives of the government will find out they were wrong. The government will embody the democratic concept in its best manifestations.

JORDAN TIMES chief editor George Hawatimah asked: You labelled the new government as progressive, which is a big term. How can you achieve this progression? Jordan cannot move backward, and there is need to carry it forward in the full sense of the word.

The prime minister answered that the government may disagree with others but this will still remain within the democratic framework and the acceptable dealings. There are common denominators, and the society cannot be turned upside down. I believe in gradual progression and development; I do not believe in mutations. We do not want the citizens to depend on the government in everything; we want the government's role to be minimal and citizens to depend on themselves. We want institutionalized action, and I do not favor persistence in raising slogans. But if the ministers can draw up written and definite plans with job descriptions, then it will be possible to practice institutionalized work in a manner whereby the minister will have general supervision of the activities of his ministry while the ministry's work and policy remain constant. The social and economic defects are a result of the defect in the general structure. Most of our problems are administrative. The press has a major role to play in educating and guiding the public. It still has room for progress although it has been a leader in much of the progress we have already made; we are seeking the ideal.

AL-DUSTUR chief editor Dr. Musa al-Kilani raised the topic of inter-Arab relations and asked whether the chance of Arab reconciliation and accord has increased or grown slimmer.

The prime minister answered that we are determined to heal rifts among all Arab brothers. Our only option, he said, is solidarity and we hope the Arab countries will realize the dangers of the existing situation in the region and the challenges and perils to Jordan, which threaten the entire nation. He said: We hope that in their dealings with Jordan, they sense the common danger and common challenges. He added: I am optimistic about this and we will soon start moves to clear the air and restore Arab solidarity.

Hashim Khuraysat, chief editor of SAWT AL-SHA'B, posed questions regarding where U.S. peace efforts have reached, the issue of Palestinian representation at the proposed peace conference, the joint delegation issue, and the current talk on the decision to disengage from the occupied West Bank and the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination on peace efforts.

Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri strongly affirmed that there is no discussion whatsoever of the disengagement decision, adding that such a thing is out of the question, because the file on the issue is closed.

As for the formation of a joint delegation to the proposed peace conference, we do not like to indulge in this issue, as we and the PLO are agreed on it; we have reached an understanding on it. We will make the proper decision in due course, as there are no differences between us on it. There should be no emphasis on this secondary issue. The issue that needs to be underscored is Israeli intransigence, Israel's rejection of UN resolutions and international legitimacy, and the land for peace principle. Once Israel accepts these things, we Arabs can return to discussing things among ourselves. The formation of a joint delegation is an issue that concerns only us. We do not want to open the door for anybody to sow division in our ranks to deflect attention from the Israeli intransigence. Hence, we say that we and the PLO can reach an understanding. There will be no differences between us if Israel agrees to accept international legitimacy and endorses the convening of a peace conference to reach a just and honorable solution.

With regard to U.S. efforts, there is nothing new that we know of. The peace process is stalemated and Israel is exploiting the situation by intensifying its settlement drive and seizing lands with a view to creating a new reality that is being consecrated faster and faster day after day. Israel only wants to buy time. It does not want peace. It seeks to obstruct international legitimacy. Therefore, since Baker's most recent tour, there has been nothing new with regard to the U.S. moves or anything else. We only hear statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and other Israeli officials, statements that are more inflexible than previous ones. The word Greater Israel is being used more frequently than ever before. Seventy percent of the occupied territories have been confiscated; settlement is in full swing. Even in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, there are many settlement projects currently under way to accomodate new Jewish immigrants.

On the pressures that continue to be applied on Jordan, including the continued harassment of the al-'Aqabah port and shipping lines, the prime minister said that Jordan is implementing UN Security Council resolutions. The UN Security Council Sanctions Committee allowed the exportation of foodstuffs to Iraq. Similarly, we obtained a decision to import Iraqi oil. All of our dealings with Iraq are being conducted in accordance with the international law and with the knowledge of the United Nations.

With regard to the maritime inspection, this has been reduced considerably after we made efforts with other countries. Most of problems in this regard have been overcome. It is true that there are forms of harassment and pressures being applied on us, using various ways and means. However, we experienced greater pressures in the past; and we were not discouraged. We have neither committed any mistakes, nor shall we commit any. Every citizen and individual must know that our Jordanian national position and decisions were honorable and will remain so under all circumstances and at all phases and times. They are and will continue to be based on the Jordanian pride and pan-Arab dignity.

The meeting was attended by Khalid al-Karaki, minister of culture and information; Trad al-Fayiz, secretary general of the Ministry of Culture and Information; Mahmud al-Kayid, chief editor of AL-RA'Y; Dr. Musa al-Kilani, chief editor of AL-DUSTUR; Hashim Khuraysat, chief editor of SAWT AL-SHA'B; and George Hawatimah, chief editor of JORDAN TIMES.

Deputies Challenge Parliament Session Agenda

JN0907080091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Jul 91 pp 1,5

[By staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The government of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri faced its first test in Parliament Monday when would-be opposition groups and individual deputies attacked the agenda set for the extraordinary session by a Royal Decree issued Sunday.

The focus of the attack, spearheaded by Islamist Deputy Layth Shubaylat and followed by ultra-nationalist and Muslim Brotherhood deputies, was whether the agenda of the extraordinary session, as set by the Royal Decree, conformed with the topics and issues set by the Lower House in requesting the session.

The government, apparently because of its lack of experience, or coordination amongst its members and supporters in the House, was either caught unaware or could not defend its case, resulting in referring the contentious issue to the Higher Committee for Defending the Constitution.

According to Cabinet sources and various deputies, the frontal attack against the government was not instigated so much by the controversy over the constitutionality of the issue, since it had been pre-determined that a Royal Decree sets the agenda, but by "opposition" attempts to test the government and its strength in Parliament.

The debate that ensured and the self-defence put up by the government and the House blocs represented in the coalition were a first indication, albeit early, of what is yet to face the government during the confidence session next week. What is indicated to observers is that the government will be faced with tough opposition and the final results will be razor close.

The constitutional argument was over the exclusion of the government's agriculture and water policies from the agenda for the extraordinary session. These issues, requested by the House for discussion during this extraordinary session, were not included in the final agenda as stipulated by the Royal Decree.

Arguing that the "House is the master of its will," Mr. Shubaylat said the House had proposed that an extraordinary session be convened in May and that the list of laws and policies on the agenda for this session include the agriculture and water policies.

The Royal Decree calling for an extraordinary session was only issued in July and the addendum of laws and policies itemised in the decree excluded some of those proposed by Parliament.

The Constitution, in Article 82, stipulates: "When necessary, the King can call the House to meetings in an extraordinary session and for an unspecified period to approve certain issues outlined in the Royal Decree calling for the session. The extraordinary session is also closed with a decree."

In its second section of that article the Constitution also gives the House the right to call for an extraordinary session but that call also needs a Royal decree from the King.

"The King also calls Parliament to meetings in an extraordinary session when the absolute majority of the Lower House of Parliament presents a signed petition in which it indicates the issues that it wants discussed," the Constitution adds.

In its third and final section, the Constitution points out: "It is not permitted for Parliament to discuss, during the extraordinary session, anything but issues specified in the Royal Decree calling for the opening of the session."

Government proponents argued that the Constitution clearly stipulates that the items to be discussed by the House during an extraordinary session are decided by the King.

Opponents argued that the point of contention was the government's "disregard" of the House's will and independence by excluding the two policies on agriculture and water. They also maintained that the use of Section 1 of Article 82 of the Constitution to open the extraordinary session instead of Section 2 is "in contravention of the Constitution."

Deputy Husayn Mujalli, an Arab nationalist lawyer, said that it was clear from the stipulations of the Constitution "that only the House can provide a list of issues to be discussed in the extraordinary session."

"This government began its mandate by aggression on the Constitution. What they did is a constitutional violation," contended Mr. Mujalli who, other deputies claim, is aggravated by the inclusion of his colleague ideologues, in the government.

"It is obvious that the government excluded the points which allow the legislative authority to monitor the work of the executive authority. The government works with a martial court mentality while it claims it lifted martial laws," said Humam Sa'id, a Muslim Brotherhood deputy recognised as a radical even among the ranks of the movement.

But a cabinet minister, who is also a deputy, charged that Mr. Mujalli had offered the legal reference on the same issue when former Prime Minister Mudar Badran was calling for an extraordinary session and that this legal advice at that time contradicted with what he said Monday.

"We sought legal advice on this same point last year and at that time Mr. Mujalli said: 'Calling an extraordinary session is of the jurisdiction of the House and the King. The agenda of the meeting is of the jurisdiction of the king'," said the minister, who preferred anonymity.

"Constitutionally the government is correct in its translation," a former minister in Mr. Badran's government told the Jordan Times. "But," he added, "at that time we contacted the different blocs at the House to discuss the items with them and reached agreement before the Royal Decree was issued."

But Mr. al-Masri's government, in counter argument, says that since it is presenting its government policy for discussion at the House without being required to constitutionally, "the House has an advantage in that it can discuss all our policies and not only agriculture and water."

Another cabinet minister, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that it was clear that the whole constitutional point was utilised by the opposition as show of "muscle-flexing" before the confidence session.

Observers and analysts agree. But they also add that Mr. al- Masri's government is a "minority government" and that it cannot expect to be given free reign by the opposition.

"This is how democracy works. The opposition cannot work on ways to comfort in government or stops being an opposition," one analyst and former minister said.

"It is a game that has to be played."

But observers of the House's session agreed that Mr. al-Masri's government "got a very early message." And some added that they were "caught unprepared."

The Muslim Brotherhood bloc, which watched the debate brewing among the government and its supporters on the one hand and independents on the other, interjected only when it was alluded that the opposition was questioning the King's will as translated in the decree.

"There is some disorder here. And I see it as the responsibility of the government. The King does not reject the will of the House but the government does. There is no clash between the wish of the House and the will of the King. What the House is doing is registering a violation for the government," Ahmad Qutash al-Azayidah, spokesman for the Brotherhood bloc, told the House after the debate had escalated.

Observers and deputies present at the House's session said that Mr. al-Azayidah's statement gave a clear indication of where the Brotherhood was heading in the confidence vote.

"Their message was very clear: They will vote against the government," said one observer. Yet some other analysts contest this analysis and say that the door for negotiations with the movement is still open and an agreement could be reached with them to abstain from voting rather than giving a negative vote.

The debate over the constitutional point ended precariously after the mood at the House became charged and speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat found himself faced with a 33-33 vote on ending the discussion. He voted in favour of ending the discussion and the meeting was ended quickly after that.

The next meeting of the House was scheduled for Thursday and, although it has not been officially announced yet, it is expected that Mr. al-Masri's government will present its policy statement then.

In the final analysis, observers say, the reception that Mr. al-Masri and his cabinet received at the hand of the 80-man House Sunday was not in line with historical announcement of lifting the stipulations of martial law that same day.

"The government came into the House after they were able to legalise the administrative moves made by the Badran government to lift martial law and they were received ungratefully by the House that has demanded this move for the past two years," commented a former minister.

'Awn's Departure for France Said 'Imminent'

NC0907173891 Paris AFP in English 1711 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Paris, 9 July (AFP)—The departure of Lebanese Christian leader Michel 'Awn from Beirut, where he has been refuged in the French Embassy since October, is "imminent" under a deal worked out by the governments of France and Lebanon, the Arab newspaper AL-HAYAH reported Tuesday.

Allowing Mr. 'Awn to move to France, where his family has already received asylum, had been held up over a Lebanese Government claim on 32 million dollars from the Christian leader.

Under the agreement, according to AL-HAYAH, the money will be frozen in a French bank account and both sides will submit to French arbitration on its ownership.

The deal was negotiated by Edgar Pisani, the president of the World Arab Institute and an adviser to President Francois Mitterrand, said the newspaper which is published in Paris and London.

France has agreed to provide asylum for Mr. 'Awn in a "secluded" location, although it could not guarantee that the rebel leader would not meet politicians and journalists here, added AL-HAYAH.

A spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry Daniel Bernard said Tuesday that he was not aware of the agreement.

PLO Awaits Reply on Transfer to Al-Biqa'

LD0807184491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source in Lebanon stated that all the heavy and collective [as heard] weapons the Palestinians possess have been surrendered. He added that the Palestinian central command may transfer its weapons and at a later time its fighters, to the al-Biqa' [valley] which is under Syrian supervision. He said: We are waiting for the Syrian reply.

Media sources reported that the Lebanese Army, in the campaign carried out yesterday, detained approximately 100 persons, and that they were taken to the army barracks in Sidon for interrogation.

As for the Lebanese minister of state, Shawqi Fakhuri, he said: After Sidon the state should restore its authority over the Jazzin region within the context of a comprehensive operation which will lead to the Army's deployment in all of south Lebanon. He added: The Jazzin stage is supposed to take place within the coming weeks and not months.

'Sources' Discuss PLO Evacuation From South

NC1007071691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] According to sources in Nicosia cited by AP who wished to remain anonymous, the Palestinians disarmed by the Lebanese Army will be evacuated from southern Lebanon in the middle of July. This means that the last PLO stronghold near Israel has been destroyed.

Meanwhile, PLO sources have said that, out of the 5,000 fighters in al-Miyah wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Hulwah camps, a few hundred will stay in Lebanon, those who are refugees registered with UNRWA as original inhabitants of the camps near Sidon.

The sources said that there will be no organized evacuation of the Palestinians as in 1983 when they were evacuated from northern Lebanon.

A PLO source has reported that the fighters are being evacuated in accordance with an agreement reached with the Lebanese Government.

The sources did not say where the fighters and the weapons will be sent; however, one source indicated that some of them will probably be transferred to the al-Biqa' area.

Army Expands Deployment in South to UNIFIL Zone

NC0907160691 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, 9 July (AFP)—The Lebanese Army on Tuesday expanded its deployment in southern Lebanon to reach the zone controlled by the United Nations peacekeeping force UNIFIL.

A battalion backed by 10 tanks took up five positions near the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The army posted soldiers 100 meters (yards) from Ghanaian UN troops in Burj Rahhal and al-'Abbasiyah villages, and to the south on the edge of Dayr Qanun, Ra's al-'Ayn and Isma'iliyah, which is controlled by a Fijian contingent.

Lebanese soldiers were deployed in a part of the Tyre region in April, and last week the army took over Sidon, 40 kilometers (30 miles) to the north, as part of efforts to extend the government's authority.

Despite the latest deployment, the pro-Iranian group Hizballah said it had killed or wounded 15 people in an attack on an Israeli patrol and Israeli-backed militiamen in south Lebanon.

There was no Israeli confirmation of the claim, but Israeli-backed fighters retaliated by shelling the 'Ayn Qana area, killing one civilian and wounding seven others.

The Lebanese government has not yet decided on sending troops into the UNIFIL sector, Israel's self-declared "security zone" or inside the Palestinian refugee camps of Sidon and Tyre.

But under an Arab peace plan, it aims to regain control of the whole country by 20 September.

More than 50 people, mostly Palestinians, were killed in fighting last week as the army drove Palestine Liberation Organisation fighters out of Sidon, their last stronghold in Lebanon.

Meanwhile in Baghdad, the official newspaper Al-Thawrah said the Lebanese deployment in the former Palestinian stronghold was part of the "plans to eliminate the Palestinian question."

"It's the final act of a peace comedy, directed by the United States for the benefit of the Zionist entity, with minor, dirty roles played by certain Arab governments, dependent on the West and intent on robbing the Arab nation."

Army To Deploy in Tyre Area 'Within One Week'

NC0907194491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has stated that the Army will deploy between Sidon and Tyre within one week. He voiced his hope that the Palestinian camps in the Tyre area will respond positively to this step to avoid what occurred in Sidon. He said contacts are continuing so that the next step following Tyre will be Jazzin.

Deployment Begins 10 July

NC1007101691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] More than 1,000 troops of the Lebanese Army's 10th Brigade began to deploy in the Tyre area today and are preparing to disarm the Palestinian organizations in the camps there. The troops are supported by dozens of tanks and are scheduled to deploy in a 60 square km area, including part of an area where UN forces are deployed.

An officer told AFP that these soldiers will be supported by a commando unit positioned at the entrance to Tyre City which will intervene as necessary. He said that the Palestinian camps in this area must hand over their heavy-caliber weapons as was done in the Sidon camps, and added: Our deployment is not aimed against the Palestinians who have announced that they were willing to cooperate with us.

A short time ago, the National Defense Ministry's Information Department issued the following statement: Since early this morning, Engineer Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, has been closely following the Army's deployment in the south toward Tyre. He has been in continuous contact with Army Commander General Emile Lahhud, who is in the area.

Minister al-Murr has received deputies August Bakhus, Istifan al-Duwayhi, and Shafiq Badr in separate meetings and discussed the general situation. The defense minister received a delegation from the Palestinian Salvation Front led by Abu-Fadi Hammad at noon today.

Army Unit Sustains Casualties in Jazzin Ambush

NC0907121391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] An ambush targeted a Lebanese Army unit stationed in Jazzin's Jabal Safi area today. The operation, which resulted in Army casualties, was accompanied by an exchange of artillery and rocket fire that lasted from 1200 to 1300.

Our security correspondent reports that an Army unit commanded by Major Niqula Mizhir is deployed in several positions in Jazzin, including Jabal Safi. The Army is also deployed on the slopes of Jabal Safi, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Jba'. These positions were included in the Iqlim al-Tuffah deployment carried out in February.

In addition, a South Lebanese Army position in Buslayya was attacked with an explosive device at midday today. Buslayya is located on the east Sidon front and is 4 km from Jabal Safi on the Iqlim al-Tuffah front.

The Lebanese Army controls the Kafr Jarrah-'Ayn al-Mir-Lib'a-Baysur front.

Israelis Shell Village; Army Clash Denied

NC0907164191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The 'Ayn Qana village in Iqlim al-Tuffah came under Israeli long-range artillery fire this afternoon. The shelling led to the martyrdom of 'Abu-'Abd Abu-al-Hasan, 65, and wounded Hajj Sulayman Hunaynu and Yusuf Abu-al-Hasan. [passage omitted]

In another development, a military source in Sidon denied that any clash occured today between the Lebanese Army and gunmen in Jabal Safi. Earlier press reports said that an Army unit clashed with gunmen in Jabal Safi between 1200 and 1300 today.

Islamic Resistance Attacks Israeli Army Convoy

NC0907122991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] An Islamic resistance group attacked a military convoy of the Israeli occupation forces and the Lahd

militia on the al-Rummanah-Radar road at 1120 today. According to a statement the Islamic Resistance Front issued this afternoon, a clash involving various kinds of weapons broke out for 30 minutes, killing and wounding more than 15 enemy personnel.

The Israeli occupation forces and the Lahd militia have been carrying out extensive searches since midday in the area surrounding the scene of the attack.

Lahd's Militia Shells Areas in South

NC1007085291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Agent Lahd's militia's artillery shelled the area east of Habayya for 90 minutes at dawn today, targeting the hills close to Mount Hermon, al-Jabal al-Awsat, and the area surrounding the villages of 'Ayn 'Ata and al-Khalwah. Some shells landed in 'Ayn 'Ata, heavily damaging three houses and destroying crops.

Al-Shar' Receives Peace Declaration From EC

JN0907205291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received the EC ambassadors accredited to Damascus, headed by the Netherlands ambassador, whose country is the current EC chairman. Al-Shar' received from the Netherlands ambassador the declaration issued by the EC on 29 June 1991 on the Middle East peace process. The declaration underlines the European call for a speedy inauguration of a process that leads to a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and for the convening of the peace conference. It expresses Europe's readiness to contribute fully to the success of the conference.

The statement stresses the need to settle the Paiestine question through the attainment of Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It also expresses the EC belief that the establishment of settlements in the occupied Arab territories is illegal and runs contrary to the peace process.

For his part, Mr. al-Shar' reviewed with the EC ambassadors the situation in the region and the international efforts aimed at finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the UN resolutions. He explained the procedural and substantial obstacles Israel is placing in the way of the peace conference. The two sides had identical views on the need to convene the peace conference as soon as possible on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. In this respect, the Netherlands ambassador stressed Syria's positive role and the identical Syrian and European positions toward the peace process.

Press Views 'Impasse' Facing 'Zionist' Leaders

JN1007065991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 10 Jul

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Stifling Impasse," the newspaper TISHRIN says: It is clear that the international efforts to achieve peace in the region have put the Zionist entity leaders in a real impasse, the first and the most serious of its kind since the establishment of this entity in 1948. The most important features of this impasse are the tearing away of the mask that concealed the true face of Zionism from the eyes of the world over several decades, and the collapse of the dictums Israel used to arm itself with in an attempt to win the sympathy of the world public opinion. The world has become fully convinced that the Tel Aviv rulers do not want or seek peace, but they seek to escalate tension in the Middle East and to adhere to the policy of aggression, expansion, and occupation.

TISHRIN adds: Israel, which practices coercion, terrorism, and racial discrimination against Arab citizens is not at all the oasis of democracy and civilization in a backward and bloody Middle East, as the Zionist propaganda claims. The world has seen for itself how those civilized people bury people alive, break people's limbs, kill women and children, and destroy nature. The international community now knows that the Zionist democrats have imprisoned more than 30,000 Arab citizens, and that they are establishing concentration camps similar to those set up by the Nazis during World War II.

After reviewing the dimensions and dangers of the intransigent Israeli policy toward peace efforts, the paper concludes: The whole world has become aware of the fact that Israel does not want peace or seek to achieve a just settlement that would end the conflict in the region, and that the Tel Aviv rulers are fully responsible for the continued tension and the dangers of the eruption of wars in the Middle East. Regardless of the means of deception and maneuvering the Zionists' creative imagination come up with, they are unable to change this fact or to conceal their expansionist, aggressive policy that is exposed to and condemned by all the peoples on earth.

Afghanistan

Mujahedin Offensive in Konduz Reported

BK1007070491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahedin have defeated Kabul regime troops in Khanabad Oluswali of Konduz province. According to reports, Kabul regime forces left for Konduz from Khanabad last Sunday. Although Kabul regime forces have made advancements toward Konduz city, now they are under mujahedin attacks. Another report says the mujahedin attacked a Kabul regime post in Shirin Tagab Oleswali in Faryab province recently. (?Several citizens) were freed in the attacks. Seventeen militiamen of the Kabul regime were killed and several injured in the attacks by mujahedin.

Bangladesh

Japan To Provide Loan for Wave Transmitter

BK0907160091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Japan will provide Bangladesh with a grant of 42 crore 40 lakh yen to acquire equipment for the reinstallation of the 100 kw medium wave transmitter of Radio Bangladesh at Savar. An agreement to this effect was signed in Dhaka today by the director general of Radio Bangladesh, Dr. Sadat Hossain, and Mr. (Masahiro Asano) of the Marubeni Corporation of Japan. Under the agreement, the project is expected to be completed by March 1992.

India

Rao Defends Economic Decisions in Address

BK0907155191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1502 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Narasimha Rao; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] Namaskar [greetings]. Friends, when I spoke to you last, I promised quick and bold measures to restore our sick economy to health. We have taken the first steps to fulfill that promise. This is just a beginning. A further set of far-reaching changes and reforms is on the way.

For the last 18 months, there had been paralysis on the economic front. The last two governments postponed taking vital decisions. The fiscal position was allowed to deteriorate. The balance of payment crisis became unmanageable. Non-resident Indians and foreign lenders became more and more reluctant to lend money to India. Consequently, India's external reserves declined steeply and we had no foreign exchange to import even such essential commodities as diesel, kerosene, edible oil, and fertilizer. The net result was that when we came to power, we found the financial position of the country in a terrible mess.

Desperate maladies call for drastic remedies, and that is what we have done, and that is what we will continue to do. The Reserve Bank changed the exchange rate of the rupee. This was done so that we can export more. More garments, more leather products, more gems and jewelry, more agricultural products made in India will now be sold abroad. This will not only earn us foreign exchange, but also create new employment at home. And, why do we need to earn foreign exchange so badly? Not to import luxury items, but to buy commodities like kerosene and diesel, fertilizers, edible oil, and steel. We produce these commodities, but what we produce is not enough. We are stepping up our production, but for sometime we have to import.

The adjustment in the exchange rate will discourage the import of non-essential goods and will, therefore, save foreign exchange for import of essential goods of mass consumption. It will also end uncertainty about the future of our currency and will encourage non-resident Indians to send more money to be deposited in their accounts in India.

After changing the value of the rupee, we undertook a major overhaul of the trade policy. Our message was simple. You cannot import if you do not export. We cut down on export licenses so that our exporters do not face hurdles. We eliminated export subsidies so that the money saved could be better deployed in welfare and employment programs. My objective is to make India truly self- reliant. Self-reliance is not a mere slogan for me. It means the ability to pay for our imports through exports. My motto is trade not aid. Aid is a crutch, trade means pride, and, India has been trading for thousands of years.

Friends, Rajiv Gandhi came to power in 1984. He first understood the need for India to change her traditional way of thinking and doing things. He realized that if India is to survive and prosper, fundamental economic reforms must be carried out. He did that. What we have done is a continuation of the policies initiated by him.

In my first address to you I had outlined the agenda of my government. We stand committed to that agenda. The budget, which will be presented on July 24th, will clearly articulate the social and economic philosophy of my government, the broad outlines of which are evident in our actions.

What is this outline? We believe that a bulk of government regulations and controls on economic activity have outlived their utility. They are stifling the creativity and innovativeness of our people. Excessive controls have bred corruption. Indeed, they are coming in the way of achieving our objectives of expanding employment opportunities, reducing the rural-urban disparities and ensuring greater social justice. We believe that the nation as well as the government must learn to live within its

means. Normally a family borrows money to buy an asset and not to meet daily expenditure. So it is with government. There is much fat in government expenditure. This can and will be cut.

We believe that government concessions must be for the poor and the really needy. Over the past few years, expenditure on this has increased substantially and in many instances the concessions are being enjoyed by people who are not in dire need of them. This must change.

We believe that India has much to learn from what is happening elsewhere in the world. Many countries are bringing far-reaching changes. We find major economic transformations sweeping large countries like the Soviet Union and China as well as small countries in Eastern Europe. There is a change in outlook. A change in mind-set everywhere. India too cannot lag behind if she has to survive as she must in the new environment.

Our commitment to work for the uplift of the poor, the underprivileged and the disadvantaged is firm and irrevocable. We believe that this is best achieved if the government concentrates on providing drinking water, on expanding education, on fighting social discrimination, on creating jobs, on establishing infrastructure. Our measures will reflect this ideology. I wish to assure you that while we are restructuring the economy to make it more productive and efficient, prices will be kept under the strictest control. We will ensure adequate availability and supply of essential commodities.

Friends, it will be dishonest for me to pretend that the job of repairing our economy will be easy, quick or smooth. Each one of us will be called upon to make sacrifices. This is no time for partisan politics. I need the cooperation of each and every one of you. I need your support, your understanding. Together, we will succeed. Jai Hind [Hail India].

Russian Killed by Kidnappers in Attempted Escape

BK0907164091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1631 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi, July 9 (AFP)—A Russian kidnapped by separatists in the northeastern Indian state of Assam has been killed, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Tuesday.

PTI said the announcement came in a statement from the outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) which is fighting for the state's independence from India.

Sergey Grishenko, the Russian engineer, was killed in a fight when he tried to escape from ULFA activists, the statement, which reached Assam's main town of Guwahati Tuesday, said.

The statement dated July 7 was signed by the ULFA's central publicity secretary, Siddhartha Phukan, the news agency said.

Mr. Grishenko was one of 14 people, the others all Indians, kidnapped by the ULFA in a series of raids in Assam on June 30 and July 1.

The separatists said they would be released in a swap for six of their jailed colleagues.

Further on Death of Soviet Engineer

BK1007021891 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 0130 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] In Assam the United Liberation Front of Assam [ULFA] terrorists yesterday killed the Soviet engineer, who they kidnapped last Monday. A delayed statement issued by the ULFA says the Soviet engineer Sergey Grishenko tried to escape after snatching a gun from a terrorist and was killed in the shootout that followed. The statement released on 7 July reached Guwahati last night. The statement says an ULFA terrorist was also killed in the shootout, but it does not refer to the place and date of the incident.

Earlier, the ULFA organization had offered to release the Soviet engineer and an official of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission [Mr. Duraiswamy] in exchange for the release of six of their activists. In response to this, six terrorists were released from jail yesterday afternoon. The Assam chief minister, Saikya, has described the killing of the Soviet engineer as unfortunate. He said in Guwahati that the Soviet Union is a good friend of India and this incident will affect our interests.

Earlier the state government had announced a general amnesty to all the detainees of the outlawed ULFA organization. The state government had filed a petition in the court yesterday for the release of 318 ULFA activists, who were arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act.

Militants Vow Execution of Oil Executive

BK0907160891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1536 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Srinagar, India, July 9 (AFP)—Moslem militants threatened Tuesday to execute by sunrise an Indian oil executive they abducted after the Kashmir state government allegedly refused to free one of their jailed activists.

The Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen (Islamic Brotherhood) group also said here that it was breaking off negotiations with the administration for its refusal to let go Javed Ahmed Shala.

A Muslimeen spokesman said by telephone that Kashmir's director general of police, J.N. Saxena, had informed the group that the state government was ready to release five of its jailed members, but not Mr. Shala.

No reasons were given, but Mr. Shala is being held for the murder of another company official who was kidnapped last year and later killed.

The rebel spokesman said the underground group had subsequently decided to kill K. Doraiswamy, 58 and executive director of the state-run Indian Oil Corp. (IOC), by sunrise Wednesday (around 6:00 a.m. or 0030 GMT).

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted Muslimeen militants as charging that the authorities had taken a "rigid attitude" and were not sincere in ending the captivity of Mr. Doraiswamy, who was seized June 28 while on a visit here.

No official reaction to the Muslimeen threat was immediately available in this summer capital of Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, where Moslem guerrillas are campaigning for secession.

But a pro-militant source said here that the militants may not carry out their threat, while government sources in the state's winter capital Jammu said they were optimistic of a negotiated swap Wednesday.

The latest Muslimeen statement followed the fifth reported extension of a deadline set by the guerrillas for the execution of Mr. Doraiswamy, a Hindu who is based in Bombay.

PTI quoted IOC sources as saying earlier Tuesday that the Moslem group had extended until 1:00 p.m. (0730 GMT) Wednesday its execution threat and that it was the last extension.

The move followed an appeal, hours before a 1:00 p.m. (0730 GMT) Tuesday execution deadline, by the federally controlled Kashmir administration to the underground group not to act in haste.

The appeal, broadcast over state-run radio, said the government was ready to accept any "reasonable" demands for a prisoner swap.

The Kashmir government has previously released jailed militants after rebels took civilians hostage.

Army troops and paramilitary forces Tuesday continued their search for Mr. Doraiswamy all over the Kashmir Valley, where a general strike called by rebels paralysed normal life.

Shops, business establishments and government offices were shut here and elsewhere in the valley, and both public and private transport remained off the roads, residents and officials said.

The protest followed news reports that security forces had massacred 113 Moslem youths in a village in Kupwara District overnight July 3-4, which Kashmir officials denied as baseless.

"There is no truth in the report and the rumour spread in this regard is to create tension among the minds of the people," an official spokesman said here.

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of arming the militants in Kashmir, whose 1947 accession to India is disputed by Pakistan. The two neighbours have gone to war twice over the picturesque region.

Pakistan, which controls the northern third of Kashmir, denies charges of arming and harbouring the rebels.

Reportage on Speaker's Election in Lok Sabha

BJP To Support Congress-I

BK0907105291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1030 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] According to news just received, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has decided to support the Congress-I candidate, Shivraj Patil, for the Lok Sabha speaker. Announcing this in a press conference in New Delhi today, the BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, said this follows an agreement reached between his party and the Congress-I. Mr. Advani said the Congress-I has in turn agreed to support the BJP candidate for the deputy speakership.

Congress-I Denies Deal With BJP

BK0907131691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] The Congress-I, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], and the National Front-Left Front combine have fielded their respective candidates for the office of the speaker of the 10th Lok Sabha. Motions proposing the names of Mr. Shivraj Patil, Congress-I; Mr. Jaswant Singh of the BJP; and Mr. Rabi Ray, Janata Dal, were submitted to the Lok Sabha Secretariat before the expiry of the deadline at 1200 today.

The BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, has said there is a broad agreement with the Congress-I that the speakership should go to the ruling party and the deputy speaker be elected from the principal opposition. But the Congress-I spokesman, Professor C.P. Thakur, said there has been no deal or understanding over the issue with the BJP. He also said no assurance has also been given, but maintained that his party firmly believes in following the established Parliamentary conventions in this regard. He said by convention, the speaker should be from the ruling party and the deputy speaker from the recognized opposition in the house.

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Advani said a consensus is still possible on the speaker issue if the National Front-Left Front combine also abides by the convention. He said his party will take a decision on its candidate for the deputy speaker in a few days.

The Congress-I spokesman said the Parliament session would have [as heard] started on a more positive note and hoped that the government will be able to get the support of all parties in grappling with the problems confronting the country. He said the decision to field Mr. Shivraj Patil was taken by the Congress-I Parliamentary Board.

Commenting on the developments, the National Front spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said they cannot go with the BJP on the speakership issue and have fielded their own nominee.

More on BJP-Congress-I 'Understanding'

BK1007092291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] The National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, has criticized the reported understanding between the Congress-I and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] on the speakership issue saying it is a matter of convenience for the two parties and not of convention. He claimed that the BJP after publicly endorsing the candidature of Mr. Rabi Ray earlier has now changed its stand. He alleged that the Congress-I had not followed the convention of giving the deputy speakership to the opposition in the past. Mr. Rama Rao told our correspondent that a final view will be taken after a meeting with the leaders of the Left parties. The National Front parliamentary party which met this morning considered various options before it on the vote of confidence to be taken by the government on Friday [12 July]. The party spokesman said the issue will be further discussed tomorrow and a final decision taken in the light of emerging political developments.

Congress-I's Shivraj Patil Wins

BK1007102291 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] A message just received says that Mr. Shivraj Patil of the Congress-I is the speaker of the 10th Lok Sabha. He was declared elected by the pro tem speaker, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, after a voice vote. Other motions by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the NF [National Front]-Left Combine were not moved. He was escorted to the podium by the leader of the house, Mr. Arjun Singh, and the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, amidst loud cheers and thumping of desks from all sections.

Delhi Pleased With Decision To Restart Transit

BK0907145291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi has expressed happiness over Islamabad's decision to restart transit facilities for Indian passengers at Pakistani airports. Replying to questions by newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the earlier announcement of withdrawal of facilities as publicized in Pakistani papers appears to be based on an official briefing.

Police Arrest 'Dreaded Terrorist' Singh

BK0907134991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] The crime branch of Delhi Police arrested a dreaded terrorist, Rajinder Singh, of Jammu near Gurdwara [Sikh temple] Majnu Ka Tila yesterday. According to Delhi Police sources, the terrorist had come to Delhi with an aim of supplying arms to local contacts at the instance of the terrorists in Punjab. He revealed that along with some other militants, he had received training at a camp at Faisalabad in Pakistan in the use of sophisticated arms and planting of bombs.

Curfew in Gujarat Town After Group Clashes

BK0907162091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] In Gujarat, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in Sujidhra Village of Khera District from this afternoon following clashes between two groups. In the violent incident, one person was stabbed to death. The police had to open fire to disperse the mob. The situation is reported to be under control.

Editorial on Bilateral Issues Resolution

BK0907110791 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 25 Jun 91 p 8

[Editorial: "Breaking the Impasse"]

[Text] On June 13 the pro-Pakistan members of the US House of Representatives cocked a snook at new Delhi over the nuclear issue. The consequent Indian dismay has been offset by the more balanced view which eventually prevailed with the vote in support of the basic Indian stand on Kashmir. Likewise, the net outcome of the sharp debate in the House over human rights in Punjab and Kashmir was by and large satisfactory from the Indian point of view. On Kashmir, the eloquence with which Mr Stephen Solarz argued against a plebiscite and in favour of the Simla Agreement proved effective. As a result, the US lower house fully endorsed the administration's known policy on the question. This is something Islamabad's friends in Washington could not have bargained for. On human rights, the Feighan amendment which was carried called on India to improve its record. At the same time it accepted the need for the militants to stop using force for political ends. Especially welcome is the same amendment's call for an end to Pakistani aid to the terrorists.

It is, however, time that both New Delhi and Islamabad pondered over the whole business of constant and zestful lobbying to promote their respective interests in the US capdital. Such propaganda war must not be carried beyond a point. Seeking American diplomatic support is fast becoming an obsession. Neither country seems to have realised that the gains of lobbying of this kind can be very limited. The worst part of it is that it distracts both neighbours from the overriding need to make a

serious bilateral bid to resolve their differences. Neither side lacks the requisite political sagacity and diplomatic skill. Is it consistent with their strong sense of independence that they should leave it to others to sort out their problems?

Above all, both have seemed of later to have understood the importance of a genuine political dialogue to open a new chapter in bilateral relations, especially in the context of dramatic changes in international politics. But concrete steps in this direction seem to elude them. It will not be out of place here to remind the present-day leaders of India and Pakistan that their predecessors had taken up a proposal for a territorial compromise even on the seemingly intractable Kashmir issue in the sixties. Why should the Indian and Pakistani rulers now fight shy of reopening this issue?

Thermal Batteries for Missiles Developed

BK0907103491 Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Jun 91 p 5

[Text] Hyderabad, June 27 (PTI) [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA]—Indian defence scientists have achieved a major import-substitute breakthrough in developing thermal batteries, the driving power vital for accurate delivery of the range of indigenous missiles Trishul, Nag and Akash to hit their target.

With this breakthrough, thermal batteries imported in large numbers, will now be manufactured in India based on the technology developed by scientists at the Defence Research and Development Labortory (DRDL) here, by two city firms—the Electronic Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL) and Renewable Energy Systems.

Thermal batteries are extensively used in short and medium range missiles because of their super fast activation time and very long shelf life. For example it meets the demands of the quick reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM)-Trishul, which has a reaction time as short as half a second.

These batteries with stored life of up to ten years without decay will be bought by the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), which is manufacturing the Trishul missile according to the journal of DRDL- Astra. The development not only saves foreign exchange but has put India in the exclusive club of countries which have this closely guarded military technology.

The first thermal cells were developed by a German scientist Dr Otto Erb during the Second World War. The principle of thermal battery is also simple but difficult to put into effect, because most of the information is a closely guarded military secret.

The battery developed for Trishul delivers about 60 watts power for the required duration of flight and weighs less than 400 gms. It is built to deliver full power within half a second and is not affected by temperature fluctuations, DRDL scientists said.

Iran

Khamene'i Addresses Foreign Ministry Officials

LD0907210591 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] At a meeting with the minister of foreign affairs and officials of the Foreign Ministry, as well as ambassadors and charges d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, said that intelligence, initiative, hard work, precision, and unwavering commitment to principles and aspirations are the overall duties of the country's diplomatic establishment. Such characteristics are needed to achieve greatness, wisdom, and the best interests of the country in foreign policy—the kind of foreign policy that is to respond to the complicated conditions and situations in the world today.

Explaining the wicked and mischievous policies of the enemies of Islam, he said: The political and propaganda organizations of our enemies are at work, through their vicious and wicked policies in various areas, to give Muslim and Third World countries the impression that the Islamic Republic of Iran has, through its behavior and statements, embarked on denigrating and tarnishing the enlightened and blessed times of the imam [Khomeyni]. In making this mendacious claim, they have accused the revolutionary figures of Iran of having revised the revolution's aspirations and of having embarked on a process of removing the imam's influence [emam-zoda'i]. They are trying to prove to world public opinion that Iran is itself finding fault with the past period.

The objective of such a vicious policy and its widespread propagation is to convince the advocates of the Islamic Revolution not to emulate the imam's path, the revolution, and the Islamic system.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i drew attention to the attachment of the nations to the glorious years in which the imam lived and the success of the Iranian nation in achieving the summit of Islamic greatness during those years. He said: The pattern of our political and economic life as well as the pattern of our revolution's overall path are in line with the style, lofty thoughts, and model behavior of the imam of the ummah, may his dust be sanctified. Today, the Iranian nation and officials assiouously follow the righteous path of their imam; they will never depart from that path.

Elsewhere in his address, the leader of the Islamic revolution reminded his audience of the need for speedy repair of damages caused by the imposed war. He called for the utilization of all available resources that have been authorized for that purpose, toward that end. In this respect, he stressed the importance of international communication and drew attention to the need to have an active diplomacy and wise contacts at the international level. He said it must be made clear that Iran is

ready for cooperation with other countries, within specific criteria, for the reconstruction of the country. He then said: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the pioneer in diplomatic activities as well as necessary political, economic, and cultural contacts. That responsibility, which is a very delicate affair and makes great demands on one's strength, is essential during the reconstruction period. The accomplishment of that important task can be achieved only through reliance on God, strong faith, very serious commitment to religious and revolutionary principles, and full alertness concerning one's behavior and remarks, knowing that God is watching at all times, and seeking his help; all this must be accompanied by the application of intelligence and alertness.

The leader of the Islamic revolution stressed that greatness, wisdom, and concern for the country's interests constitute the essential triangle in forming the framework of the international contacts of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: On the basis of our conviction and faith in monotheism—which is the chief characteristic of islamic thought—we love God and serve his creatures and as such we claim honor; we reject superpower behavior, arrogance, and boastfulness in international relations. Our nation enjoys a rich cultural heritage; it has a most glorious record in the sciences, world politics, and other areas. We do not intend, however, to boast; we base our contacts on the foundations of human relations, Islamic and monotheistic honor, and the integrity of the Iranian nation.

Addressing the diplomatic envoys of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: No one has the right to tolerate the least insult to the great and glorious Iranian nation in his dealings with others. Our nation will not accept humiliation, and it has demonstrated its ability to be present in all the international arenas.

The leader of the Islamic revolution stressed the necessity of behavior based on principles, logic, reason, and the avoidance of rash remarks in foreign policy and international relations. He added: It is necessary to adopt a wise stance in diplomatic relations and contacts. In terms of the revolutionary and believing human resources that it possesses, the Ministry of Foreign affairs is a rich organization. We place great hope in the efforts, intelligence, and wisdom of hezbollahi personnel and faithful and experienced staff in this ministry. During the experience of the Persian Gulf war and Resolution 598, they demonstrated a high degree of forcefulness, wisdom, and intelligence. However, they should also be aware of the fact that the harm done by inappropriate words and deeds in the diplomatic arena is deeper, more widespread, and more noticeable than in any other organization.

The leader of the Islamic revolution reminded our country's ambassadors and charges d'affaires of the need to observe the interests of the revolution as one of the principles of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Urging them to observe restraint and to refrain from luxurious living, he graciously said: Our endeavors, work, and jihad in the world is for the sake of establishing divine sovereignty on earth. The goal is to enable individuals to attain light and acquire divine characteristics. Therefore, we expect the diplomatic envoys of the Islamic Republic of Iran to bring light into their own lives through refraining from luxurious living and unnecessary expenditure and placing the interest of the revolution above any personal gain or interests.

Stressing the need to increase the political awareness and knowledge of the ambassadors and charges d'affaires, his eminence said: In the field of international affairs, the Islamic Republic of Iran is able to take numerous diplomatic initiatives. We can have an active presence in Asia, the Middle East, all Islamic countries, and all other international organization, and we can be effective in guiding those organizations toward a correct and logical goal, raising new issues, and taking new initiatives in international organizations.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the diplomatic envoys of the Islamic Republic of Iran as ambassadors for conveying the message of light and the mission of monotheism. At the end of his speech, he reminded them of the need to observe piety, faith, detachment, and reliance upon God.

Before the leader of the Islamic revolution spoke, Mr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, described the expansion and development of diplomatic efforts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as resulting from the supervision, guidance, and support of the leader of the Islamic revolution. He also described the role of the president in the advancement of foreign policy as very important. He described the developments in today's world as unique in contemporary history, especially since World War II. He also stressed the need to make use of the wise guidance of the leader of the Islamic revolution in advancing the political goals of the Islamic Republic in its dealings with the outside world.

France's Scheer Arrives for Debt Talks

LD1007090391 Tehran IRNA in English 0731 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 10 July, IRNA—Director General of the French Foreign Ministry Francois Scheer arrived here Wednesday morning to follow up the settlement of financial disputes between the two countries.

Upon arrival here Scheer met and talked with his Iranian counterpart Mahmud Va'ezi, who has since 1989 held several rounds of talks with Scheer in Tehran and Paris over the issue.

In September 1989 Va'ezi and Scheer were commissioned by their respective countries to negotiate settlement of one billion dollar loan that the former regime of Iran had granted to the French atomic energy commissariat in 1974.

Foreign ministers of Iran and France were due to sign an agreement on the final settlement of the dispute during 'Ali Akbar Velayati's last week visit to Paris which was postponed due to some differences of opinion over one paragraph of the agreement.

Iran and France reached an agreement in principle during the last May visit of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to Tehran.

Meanwhile, French Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard Tuesday said that there was no reason for not being able to solve the remaining issues of the case in the near future.

'Catastrophic Bloodshed' in Lebanon Predicted

LD0907162791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0956 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the wake of the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the strategic region of Sidon and the disarmament of the Palestinian forces in this region, the grounds are prepared for the next phase of extending the Lebanese Goverment's sovereignty in the face of internal, regional, and international pressure. In this phase, the Lebanese Government, by initiating diplomatic efforts, intends to spread the Army's control over the Jazzin region and is hoping these efforts will pave the way for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 428 on the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied south Lebanon. On the other hand, the occupying regime of Jerusalem, its mercenaries in south Lebanon, and the United States are trying to divert the Lebanese Government's plan for the next phase of extending its sovereignty.

The Lebanese statesmen, who wish to be able to dispatch their army to Jazzin within a maximum period of one month, have asked the United States to make Israel withdraw its forces from south Lebanon and are optimistically saying that they will complete this important task with Washington's cooperation. The leader of the pro-Israeli militia, Antoine Lahd, as the spokesman of the Zionist regime in Lebanon, has stated that the restoration of security in south Lebanon depends on a peace agreement between Israel and Lebanon, and the Lebanese Army totally disarming the Palestinians by taking over the Palestinian camps. In other words, through Lahd, Israel has warned the Lebanese leaders that it will not be satisifed with just the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the regions previously controlled by the Palestinian forces and it expects the Lebanese Army to take full control of the Palestinian camps. No doubt such operations would result in catastrophic bloodshed.

The Zionist regime has directly rejected any withdrawal from south Lebanon, making the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 [as heard] conditional on the simultaneous withdrawal of the Syrian and Israeli forces from the entire territory of Lebanon. That is, Israel is demanding that the special agreement between Syria and Lebanon, which authorized the deployment of the Syrian military in Lebanon, should be revoked. This shows that the Zionist regime does not recognize the Lebanese Government's independence and sovereignty or its right to sign various treaties with other countries. At the same time, this regime intends to sign an agreement with the Lebanese Government, similar to the abrogated treaty signed on 17 May 1983.

The United States, although optimistically watching the course of events in Lebanon, is trying to realize its own and Israel's objectives and intends to direct the events toward the implementation of the subsequent phases of the Al-Ta'if plan. The recent remarks made by the U.S. State Department spokesman, to the effect that this is not yet the right time to discuss Israeli withdrawal from this region as the Lebanese Army is not in full control of that country's southern areas, demonstrate that the United States wishes to force the Lebanese Government to uproot the anti-Zionist resistance forces in other regions of south Lebanon including Nabatiyah, Sur [Tyre] and the West Biqa' axes. This U.S. stance on the one hand rejects any political cooperation with the Lebanese Government in its goal to deploy the army in Jizzin, and on the other hand it shows that the U.S. Government's subsequent plan is to disarm those anti-Zionist forces that are allies of Syria. At the same time, the United States postpones any discussion of the disarmament of pro-Israeli troops in this region and the complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from south Lebanon to an unspecified future, without giving any guarantees.

Editorial Denounces New World Order

NC0407162091 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Disorderly 'New World Order'"]

[Text] The "New World Order" is a phrase often encountered in political discourses these days. It is a pleasant sounding phrase and it has some alluring aspects to it, suggesting a total change, a break from the ugly things of the past. And the word "order" has been included to create the impression that the concept is based on rational thinking and the rule of the reason.

A closer examination of the texts in which the phrase occurs, however, will reveal that the architects of the New World Order have only devised new ways of safeguarding their own interests, and that the fate of the rest of the world—the Third World or "the South"—is as immaterial to them now as it was before.

The designers of the New World Order are apparently bent on resolving regional disputes in geopolitically sensitive parts of the world. On the face of it, this would seem to be a laudable benevolent intention. But it wouldn't take much thinking to realize that the real reason behind this apparently pacifistic gesture is not to spare the people in the

areas the suffering and devastation which armed conflicts might ensue. The advocates of the promotion of democracy and the resolution of disputes through peaceful contacts are only trying to ensure that their economic interests are not endangered. If they are against the buildup of weaponry in the hands of the local governments in the strategically important areas, it is because the example of the Persian Gulf crisis has taught them that prevention is much easier than cure.

Actually despite all plannings and the pretensions of good will, the basic intentions are clearly visible through contradictory efforts at justification offered regarding the details of the New World Order. It is proposed, for instance, that arms buildup in Middle Eastern countries should be controlled, but at the same time extensive multi-million dollar arms deals are concluded with some of the countries in the area.

Not unexpectedly the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has led to an increased sense of insecurity in the countries in the region—the Islamic Republic of Iran which, backed by popular forces, was able to withstand 8 years of aggression is the sole exception. Saudi Arabia which spent billions of dollars on arms purchase but found itself sadly deficient in manpower to use the arms, is proposing to couple new arms acquisition with massive increase in its military personnel. The other Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region are also in great haste to buy new kinds of weaponry.

And while political observers believe the US plan for arms control in the Middle East would be impracticable as long as the Palestine issue is not resolved, there are other reasons to believe that the scheme is doomed to failure. For apart from the fact that arming one nation would entice its neighbors to acquire similar weapons, the Palestine issue itself is a very complex one which encompasses other dimensions than the US support for Israel.

Basically the US plan is constructed on the premise that security in Middle Eat and in particular in the Persian Gulf region is not adequately guaranteed at the moment. Thus it would seem that the best way for the countries in the region to counter that argument is to form among themselves a security scheme without mixing political issues with superficial ethnic considerations.

Tehran Views German Nuclear Power Plant Decision

NC1007095391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0350 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] Following the German Government's new decision to deny a permit to continue the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant's construction, the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO] has announced that the Iranian Government cannot remain indifferent toward this unjust decision. This week our president himself had stressed the need for the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant to be completed. Replying to a letter from the IAEO director, he wrote: We are determined to complete this significant project and will do so with the help of God.

Work on the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, which has two atomic reactors, each with a 1,200-megawatt electricity output, began in 1354 [21 March 1975-20 March 1976] under an agreement between the Iranian Government and the Kraftwerk Union of Germany, which is a subsidiary of the Siemens Company and has capital totalling $3.2 billion. One year after the Islamic Revolution's victory in 1979, however, work on the project was suspended, even though the agreed-upon sum had been paid to the foreign contractor. Germany's unilateral abrogation of the agreement inflicted a loss of 23 million tomans on Iran.

The German Government had refused to issue any permits for exporting spare parts to Iran to complete the project, apparently due to the Iran-Iraq war. On several occasions, its diplomatic officials promised Iran that, when the war ended, the government would issue the bill of lading and complete the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant. The deed of conveyance the German Government had signed with the IAEO, however, indicated that it had agreed to complete the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant whenever the IAEO decided to do so. The request for the plant's completion was sent to the contractor eight years ago. The contractor had received 18 million DM to send a delegation of its experts to Iran to study the incomplete nuclear power plant so it would be able to take the existing situation into consideration and work for the plant's completion.

Despite these steps, the German Government has alleged that the technique used in the power plant is outdated and does not provide the necessary conditions for safe operation and thus is not willing to issue the permit to continue the plant's construction. It is now trying to abandon this project by proposing the construction of a gas power plant. Iran's nuclear power plant, one of the largest power plants in the Middle East, is of great significance and value to Iran.

Naturally, Iran considers the entire project to be a national issue. In view of the large amount of money our government has invested in this project and the extensive manpower that has been used for its construction, it intends to do whatever it takes to complete the power plant, because this plant will be used in the fields of energy, agriculture, industry, and medicine. Moreover, our country's Five-Year Economic Plan has assigned this power plant with supplying 14 percent of the country's electricity. Intensive programs have been instituted in the country's institutions of higher education to train the expert force which will be needed when the power plant becomes operational.

The Iranian Government has invested a huge amount of capital in the use and maintenance of this power plant and will suffer a great loss from the unilateral abrogation

of the agreement for this project, which is unprecedented in Iran's history. The IAEO has announced that if Germany is using the excuse that the power plant is unsafe, this power plant can acquire the necessary safety standards by spending about $30 million.

It seems, however, that the developed countries are trying to prevent technological growth in developing countries and are resorting to empty excuses to make international public opinion accept their distorted views. For example, it has been alleged that Iran will use its nuclear power plant to manufacture nuclear arms. On the basis of its Five-Year Plan and its policy of peace toward other countries, however, Iran has announced that this power plant will be used only for peaceful purposes. This way of thinking about the construction of a power plant in our country stems from the substantial worry that Iraqi nuclear reactors have spread throughout the world.

In view of Iran's new and comprehensive relations with the EEC and especially Germany, the noncompletion of this power plant—along with the German Government's request for $10 billion in compensation—could cast a shadow on the good relations between the two countries which could in turn lead to new confrontations in Iran's political-economic relations with Germany.

Saudi Arabia Agrees To Accept Iranian Pilgrims

LD0907122291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Iran and Saudi Arabia have agreed that from the month of Shahrivar this year [23 August-22 September] every week approximately 3,000 pilgrims will make their out of season pilgrimage to the house of God.

Mr. Jamarani, representative of the Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in the Hajj, Religious Endowments, and Charities Organization, announced this today. He added in an interview with reporters: In accordance with understandings, every month 12,000 people will be added to the out of season pilgrimage. Right now 300,000 people are on the waiting list. He added: Registration of names for going to Syria will be announced soon, after agreement with the Central Bank about the registration fees.

Mr. Jamarani then described the activities of the Hajj, Religious Endowments, and Charities Organization. He said: bearing in mind the brief opportunities we had before the start of this year's Hajj ceremonies, all the resources of this organization were used to prepare the housing and foodstuff needs, medical care, relief and welfare services for the pilgrims everywhere, barring eight out-of-bounds regions in Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Tehran Daily Criticizes Turkish Expulsion of Imam

NC0807155091 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Jun 91 p 14

[Unattributed commentary: "The Need to Respond to the Humiliating Action by Turkey"]

[Text] The Turkish police arrested Hojjat ol-Eslam Sabeqi, the congregational Imam of the Iranian mosque in Istanbul, and detained him overnight before expelling him on Friday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sabeqi was arrested last Thursday while returning home after finishing Komeyl prayers at the Iranian mosque. On Friday, he was accompanied by some policemen to the airport and was sent to Tehran aboard an Iranian airline plane. The exact reason for Hojjat ol-Eslam Sabeqi's expulsion from Turkey has not been announced officially.

This is the second time that Turkey has expelled the congregational Imam of the Iranian mosque in Istanbul. Last year, Hojjat ol-Eslam Saberi Hamadani was arrested and expelled.

The Turkish conduct toward the two congregational Imams of the Iranian mosque in Istanbul indicates the existence of groups in the Turkish Government that are exerting pressure on the government. The expulsion of the congregational Imams can not be justified at a time when the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey are daily insisting on the expansion of mutual ties and when the two presidents are constantly in touch with one another and have made reciprocal visits.

The mosque is a venue for the congregation of Iranians living in Turkey to perform their religious obligations.

The Muslims perform their religious rituals in the mosque. These rituals in no way violate Turkish laws. Certain groups, however, oppose ties between the two countries and are enemies of religion. These groups have been trying to disrupt the performance of religious rituals in the Iranian mosque for quite some time. It appears that the Ozal government has made some attempts to prevent such incidents; however, the result has been very unpleasant and unfriendly.

There is no justification whatsoever for the congregational Imam's arrest, demeaning treatment, and expulsion.

If this state of affairs is not remedied, the revolutionary people of Iran will see this attitude as illogical and contrary to the norms of cordial relations. They will also expect government officials, especially in the Foreign Ministry, to make a formal protest and to demand a clear and official response from the Turkish Government on the issue.

It is obvious that if no acceptable explanation of this behavior is made, reciprocal measures will have to be taken to prevent similar incidents.

Turkey knows full well that the Islamic Revolution has always stressed its principles—the defense of Islamic values worldwide—and insists on them. Therefore, in addition to not helping Turkey, this expulsion also puts Turkey's policies on Islamic issues in question. Let us not forget that the majority of the Turkish population is Muslim.

The least the Turkish Government can do for the Iranian people is provide an official explanation on this degrading incident. It would be appropriate for the Turkish Government to bear in mind the sensitivity of the Iranian people and officials and return to the correct path and create conditions for the return of Hojjat ol-Eslam Sabeqi.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Speaks on Plebiscite in Kashmir

BK1007034891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has urged the international community to demonstrate the same spirit and determination toward the implementation of the UN Resolutions for holding a plebiscite in Kashmir, as demonstrated by it in the case of Kuwait. He said this while speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of Thai Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon at the state guest house in Rawalpindi last night. He said the people of occupied Kashmir have staged an uprising to realize their right of self determination, which was pledged to them by India, Pakistan, and the United Nations.

Referring to Afghanistan, Nawaz Sharif has thanked Thailand for its categorical support on this issue and said Pakistan is desirous of a lasting and peaceful solution to the issue which is acceptable to a vast majority of the people of Afghanistan. For this objective, Pakistan has supported the UN Secretary General's proposal on this issue.

The prime minister said his government has adopted a comprehensive welfare policy to achieve self reliance and the process of delinking public sector industries from the national establishment, relaxing rules and regulations, and free investment has already been initiated. We are trying to create an atmosphere conducive to foreign investments.

Referring to the age-old cordial relations between Pakistan and Thailand, the prime minister said our common cultural heritage provides solid foundations to promote friendship and cooperation.

In his speech, Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon has expressed the confidence that Pakistan and Thailand will continue to effectively support each other toward achieving peace and freedom for the people of the entire world. The Crown Prince added that the friendly relations between the two countries will improve steadily.

Talks on Bilateral Relations Resumed With India

BK0907165091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Pakistan and India are to resume talks soon at different levels on various aspects of their bilateral relations. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the fifth round of talks at foreign secretaries level will be held in Islamabad in the first week of September. Secretaries parlays on Sir Creek issue will be held in Islamabad in the third week of next month. The two countries will also hold talks on Wular Barrage in Islamabad in the second week of next month. Similarly, military experts of the two countries will have a fifth round of their talks in Islamabad. The two-day talks on prevention of drug trafficking at experts level would open in the federal capital on the 13th of next month.

The spokesman said the Indian foreign secretary during Male talks said that the new Indian Government would continue policy of the various previous governments concerning relations between the two countries. The spokesman said that foreign secretaries also discussed general state of bilateral relations, situation in occupied Kashmir, including violation of human rights there. The proposal by the Pakistani prime minister to make South Asia free from nuclear weapons also came up for discussion at the talks. About India's reaction to the proposal, the spokesman said India was now looking at the rationale of Pakistan's new initiative. The new Indian Government is studying the proposal in depth. The subject will come up for discussion at the next round of bilateral talks.

One Killed, Six Hurt in Bomb Blast in Northwest

BK0907165291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 9 (AFP)—One person was killed and six were wounded when a bomb exploded in a metal scrap shop owned by two Afghan refugees in a northwestern Pakistan town, a report said Tuesday.

The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN said a bomb disposal squad called in after Monday's explosion searched the shop in Akora Khattak and found two other bombs.

The town is close to Nowshera garrison town, where 10 Pakistan army engineers were killed and 14 injured in a blast while disposing of unexploded bombs, rockets and shells on Sunday.

Presidential Ordinance Establishes Special Courts

BK1007054791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] The president has promulgated two ordinances, one of which provides for the setting up of special courts for speedy disposal of cases, and another for the prevention of terrorism, sabotage, and other despicable crimes

in the terrorist-affected areas. The first ordinance will be called the Special Courts Ordinance for Speedy Hearing of Cases 1991. This ordinance will be applicable throughout the country, empowering the government to refer any case to the speedy disposal courts so as to provide a quick verdict in the interests of the public.

The special court set up by the government can try any accused and can sentence him when the charges against him are proved. The special court will have all the jurisdiction of a high court. The officer in charge of the police station will complete an inquiry of the case that will be heard in the special court, and will send the report directly to the same within 14 days, under Article 171 of the Penal Code. The special court will have the authority to extend the deadline. The court can take direct action on any case which deserves hearing and the accused should be submitted to the court within 24 hours after charges have been filed against him. Under the ordinance, after admitting such cases, the special court will conduct daily hearings and will give a verdict within two weeks. If there is any sort of delay, a reasonable cause should be cited. The court will not adjourn the hearing of the case for more than two working days. All the proceedings of the special court will be held openly. However, the court can conduct the proceedings behind closed doors on its own or as per the request of the public prosecutor. Under the ordinance, appeals against the final verdict of the special court can be made in the special court of appeals, comprising a person who is fit to become the judge of a high court. Under the ordinance, the special court of appeals will hear the appeal and announce its verdict within seven days in order to provide speedy justice to the persons involved.

The second ordinance is called the Special Courts Ordinance 1991 for Terrorist Affected Areas, under which the government, through a notification, can declare any area a terrorist-affected area and direct the provincial governments, where such areas are located, to appoint magistrates regarding such crimes. In these areas, the magistrates can use police and civil armed forces against those who harbor terrorists, hold anyone as hostage, engage in terrorism, and trade in or possess arms and ammunition in violation of law. In the absense of the orders of a magistrate who cannot be contacted, any police officer at the rank of sub-inspector or his senior officer, or any officer of the civil armed forces with equal rank can use necessary force, even if it results in deaths. In these areas, the government can set up special courts for speedy disposal of cases, comprising a person who is suitable for appointment as sessions judge, additional sessions judge, or district magistrate. These courts will be empowered to conduct the hearing of all the cases cited under the ordinance in the absense of the accused as well.